DOJ tells Mark Jimenez: Tell all, or else . . .

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2001 ★ 32 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 60 ₱15

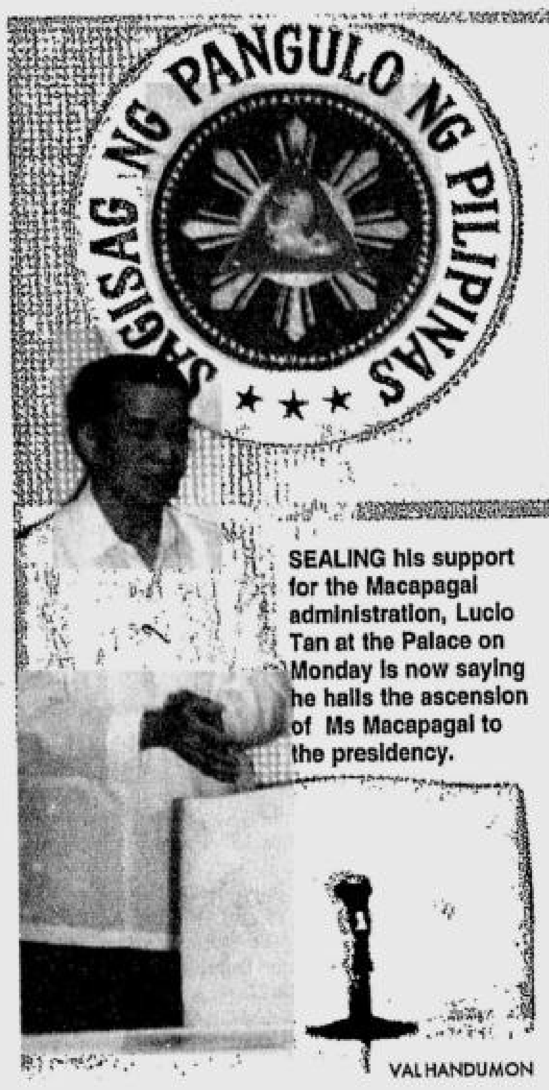
Erap thinks Dichaves fled with his ₱300M

By Armand N. Nocum

MONEY was the glue that kept the friendship of former President Joseph Estrada and Jaime Dichaves going strong. It has come unglued also because of money.

Estrada is reportedly unhappy that his once and faithful friend suddenly skipped town at the

ERAP THINKS/ A4



SEALING his support for the Macapagal administration, Lucio Tan at the Palace on Monday is now saying he hails the ascension of Ms Macapagal to the presidency.

VAL HANDUMON

Lucio Tan dumps Erap, hails Gloria

William Gatchalian also part of contingent to Palace

By Armand N. Nocum

CHINESE-FILIPINO businessmen led by beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, a known crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada, visited President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang yesterday, pledging support for her administration.

Tan led a group of 50 businessmen belonging to the influential Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI) of which he is the president.

"We hail and congratulate Your Excellency's assumption to the Presidency of the Republic," Tan said as he introduced his group to Ms Macapagal. The President seated Tan to her right.

Tan, who has been accused of evading payment of taxes amounting to P25.27 billion, said the FFCCCI was happy about the initial performance of the Macapagal administration.

"We support President Gloria," Tan told reporters before meeting with the President.

William Gatchalian of the Wellex Group and Manila Rep. Harry Angping were also part of the contingent that arrived in the Palace by bus. The Wellex Group had received from Estrada a P500-million investment, which was taken from his savings account with Equitable PCI Bank.

Interviewed by newsmen after meeting with the President, Angping said his group was there "on pure business, not politics."

In her short message to the FFCCCI, she thanked the group for their support and told them that just like her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, "who had very good relations with the Chinese-Filipino business community," she intended to have good ties with the community.

But the President proceeded to "take the bull by the horns" and expressed her displeasure with efforts by some sectors to paint a bad picture of her through text messages before the Chinese-Filipino community.

"Just before I became President of the Philippines, there was black propaganda going around Chinatown that I was anti-Chinese. I believe many of you know me. Am I anti-Chinese?" she said.

"Now that I have become Presi-

LUCIO/ A4

De Villa: Factual except for omissions

By Christine Avendaño and Cathy C. Yamsuan

EXECUTIVE Secretary Renato de Villa yesterday confirmed the accuracy of his predecessor's account of the final days of Joseph Estrada's presidency, but added that there were important negotiating points between the two sides that Edgardo Angara failed to mention.

De Villa said nothing came of the negotiations because Angara's side did not act on the United Opposition's first demand, which was to give them Estrada's signed resignation letter.

But De Villa confirmed that his side had agreed to Angara's request that Estrada be allowed to leave Malacañang at the end of a five-day transition period.

DE VILLA/ A12

ONE for the road on Jan. 20 at about 2 p.m. Left to right: Ronnie Puno, Melo Santiago, ex-DENR Secretary Cerilles, ex-Labor Secretary Laguesma (partly hidden), Edgardo Angara, Estrada, ex-DOTC Secretary Rivera, ex-DPWH Secretary Vigilar, ex-Health Secretary Romualdez, ex-PMS head Macel Fernandez, Don Don Bagatsing, Palawan Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

THE ANGARA FILES

ERAP'S FINAL HOURS

The resignation that never was

By Edgardo Angara

(Last of three parts)

Editor's note: This is the conclusion of "The Final Days of Joseph Ejercito Estrada," a narrative from the diary of former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, made exclusively available to the INQUIRER. Angara says that his personal account of the events of Jan. 19 and 20 is "as faithful to the truth as possible" and that "perhaps it is time that we begin the healing process with the truth." The INQUIRER is publishing the narrative as an insider's version of what happened during those two remarkable days.

THIS is the letter of resignation of Joseph Estrada, a letter that Palace negotiators were prepared to give to the United Opposition but never did:

"I hereby tender my resignation as President of the Republic of the Philippines effective 24 January 2001 in the name of national unity and in order to effect a peaceful transition of power amidst divisive political unrest.

THE RESIGNATION/ A12

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Witnesses at the impeachment trial pay a courtesy call on Cardinal Sin on Monday. From left, (seated) Perfecto Yasay Jr., Jose Luis Yulo, Manuel Curato, Clarissa Ocampo, Emma Lim, Menchu Itchon, Edgardo Espiritu. Behind are Edelquin Dantes, Shakira Yu, Rosario Bautista, Roberto Lastimoso, Elizabeth Balagot, Emma Gonzales, Annie Ngo and Vergel Pabilion.

JOAN BONDOC

APPOINTMENTS

Montemayor gets agriculture post

By Armand N. Nocum and Christine Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has named her agriculture secretary—Rep. Leonardo Montemayor, who is now on his second term as representative of the Federation of Free Farmers.

Acting Press Secretary Noel Cabrera yesterday said Ms Macapagal had also named retired Gen. Fortunato Abat as president and chief executive officer of the John Hay Poro Point Development Corp., and Isabel Golamco, her former appointments secretary, as acting chair of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco).

Cabrera said Golamco's appointment would take effect today and was in line with the President's directive for the immediate reorganization of Meco, the *de facto* Philippine embassy in Taiwan.

He also said Ms Macapagal had formally approved the appointment of Pangasinan Rep. Hernani Braganza as agrarian reform secretary.

In the House, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri declined an in-

MONTEMAYOR/ A4

Erap asks SC to stop Ombudsman

By Rocky Nazareno and Michael Lim Ubac

INSISTING that he is still "the sitting President," Joseph E. Estrada yesterday asked the Supreme Court to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from further investigating the charges of plunder, bribery and graft filed against him.

His petition came as Ombudsman Aniano Desierto rejected his motion that the Office of the Ombudsman suspend for 60 days the preliminary investigation.

Estrada also pleaded for another 30-day extension to file his comment on the charges relating to the "jueteng" payoffs and tobacco tax kickbacks.

Desierto gave him a one-week, non-extendable deadline, to answer the charges.

Desierto said Estrada must answer the charges within a week or face formal charges and arrest.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the government would not give preferential treatment to Estrada once he is arrested.

"Some are saying that he should be accorded with a house arrest.

ERAP/ A12

JPE, Miriam gird for combat

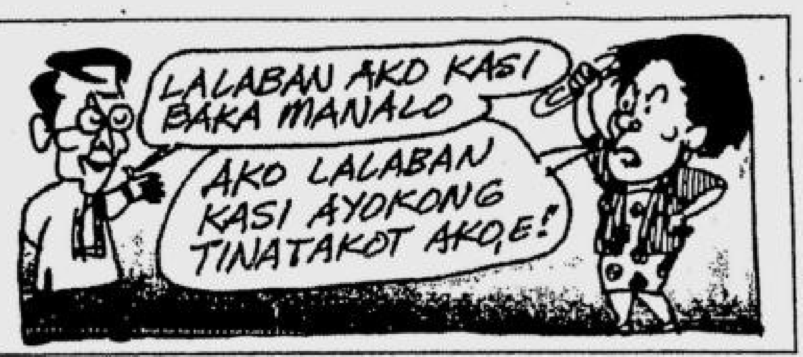
By Juliet L. Javellana and TJ Burgonio

NEVER say die.

At least two of the 11 senators who drew public condemnation for voting against the opening of the second envelope at ousted President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial are in fighting form vis-à-vis the May elections.

One, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, yesterday said she would "seriously" think of

JPE/ A5


LALABAN AKO KASI BAKA MANALO
AKO LALABAN KASI AYOKONG TINATAKOT AKO, E!

DAPAT ALAMIN ANG KATOTOHANAN!

Joma says Erap plotted to kill him

By Norman Bordadora
and Carlito Pablo

EXILED communist leader Jose Maria Sison yesterday accused ousted President Joseph Estrada and others of plotting his assassination in the Netherlands.

Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, said Estrada was the mastermind of the plot, with former Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson and ex-PNP intelligence head Chief Supt. Julius Yarcia as his "advisers."

Sison also identified three breakaway communist leaders-Romulo Kintanar, Arturo Tabara and Nilo de la Cruz-as the "tactical planners" of the attempt on his life.

Kintanar used to be chief of the New People's Army, while Tabara was former head of the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA Visayas Commission, and De la Cruz a top cadre of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

"Under the cover of his private placement agency, which monopolizes the placement of TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) trainees for overseas work, Kintanar made a trip to the Netherlands early last year to prepare the groundwork," Sison said.

"In May last year, an assassination team of five members was assembled in the Netherlands," said the communist leader who has been in self-exile in The Hague for over five years.

He added, "It is highly probable the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines under its then commander, Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, was involved in the plot since an active armyman was a member of the hit team."

Sison said that in one drinking session last year, Estrada and Kintanar were boasting to other people that he (Sison) was "already in a box (*nakakahon*)" and that it was a matter of time before he was "finished (*matotodas na*)."

"They talked openly about the assassination plot," Sison said.

He said the hit team was led by a Joey Mortera, alias Redford and Nana, and composed of a backup triggerman provided by Tabara, a soldier and two Filipino residents of the Netherlands who would serve as lookouts.

"The hit team wasted several months grumbling about the poor intelligence provided by the so-called monitoring team, going to nightspots under the pretext of looking for me there, and doing surveillance work in a sweeping way until they decided to concentrate on surveilling the NDFP office in Utrecht," Sison said.

He said the team was deployed in May and was supposed to kill him by October, but the schedule was fouled up reportedly by the arrest and detention of the backup triggerman by Dutch police in a separate incident.

"The hit team floundered until December when it made a last attempt," Sison said, "But I did not show up where I was expected."

Sison said Mortera and the other operatives were recalled to Manila sometime in December, leaving a monitoring team to continue surveillance of him.

He said a second team, with a new set of triggermen, was supposed to leave Manila early this year and assassinate him in February or March.

"We are anticipating this team on my birthday, Feb. 8, or some other occasion in February or March," Sison said.

When asked to comment on Sison's allegations, Calimlim, now AFP vice chief of staff, denied any knowledge of an assassination try on the communist leader.

"I personally don't know anything about that," Calimlim said over the telephone. "There is no plan to assassinate Joma (Sison's nickname)."

The alleged plot was initially revealed last Jan. 31 by police Supt. Reynaldo Berroya in an interview over radio station dzBB.

In a telephone interview, Berroya said that except for the alleged involvement of Calimlim, which he had yet to confirm, the plot as outlined by Sison was accurate.

Berroya said he and Sison had "compared notes" through long distance telephone and "everything matched," from the involvement of Estrada and the others to the plate numbers of the cars used by the assassination team in Utrecht.

Sison said evidence could be gathered from the paper trail left by the operatives-their passports, visa applications and plane manifests from the Philippines to the Netherlands.

He said one hit man even used a credit card in his own name.

Sison said that despite Estrada's fall from power, the "contract" on his life was still on.

"I expect the (new) Manila authorities to cooperate with my lawyers in investigating the grave threat to my life and in uncovering the trail of Estrada's operatives," he said.

Nani tells Mark: Tell all, or else…

By Rocky Nazareno

JIMENEZ

TELL all or fend for yourself.

This was the warning given by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who told possible state witness Mark Jimenez to leave out nothing in his testimony when he finally takes the stand to substantiate the charges of corruption and plunder brought against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"I warned him that if he becomes selective (in his testimony) and he would not tell all he knows, I would pull out all the security details from the Witness Protection Program and the National Bureau of Investigation I gave him," Perez said.

Worse, Perez said, he would even "announce that his security has been pulled out."

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, former prosecutor in the Estrada impeachment trial, had earlier said that Jimenez, who used to be close to the disgraced president, should not omit details when recounting to the DOJ the alleged illegal activities of the deposed president.

Perez admitted that when Jimenez started giving his testimony to the DOJ last week, Jimenez was apparently "selective" in his story and that he "needed prodding" at times to provide details.

In airing the warning, Perez noted that earlier reports had said professional hit men had been contracted to silence Jimenez.

Perez also said that soon after Jimenez announced plans to testify against Estrada, the former presidential adviser on Latin American affairs had reported receiving threatening calls and seeing "suspicious cars" apparently casing his house.

Perez also disputed the observation that the DOJ had given special treatment to Jimenez in accepting his offer to turn state witness while rejecting other friends of Estrada who had signified a similar intention.

Perez had explained last week that he rejected the offer of Estrada's lawyer Edward Serapio because his testimony would likely violate the "lawyer-client privilege" and could even lead to his disbarment.

Perez added the DOJ could not also accept the testimony of Estrada's other friends, like businessman Jaime Dichaves and Dante Tan, because they were not the "least guilty" in the criminal offenses to be imputed on the ousted president.

"First of all, there is no pending (criminal) case against Jimenez, apart from the extradition request (of the US government against him)," Perez said.

"Secondly, we knew nothing about what Mark Jimenez is telling us now. We don't have any other evidence on this apart from his testimony," he added.

Perez also said Jimenez need not give back to the government the commissions he earned from the corporate deals he brokered, including the takeover of the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co.

"In the case of his (Jimenez) commission from PLDT, I don't think that is part of the question since he is not a government official. What is wrong is when a government official takes a share from deals made by private brokers," Perez said.

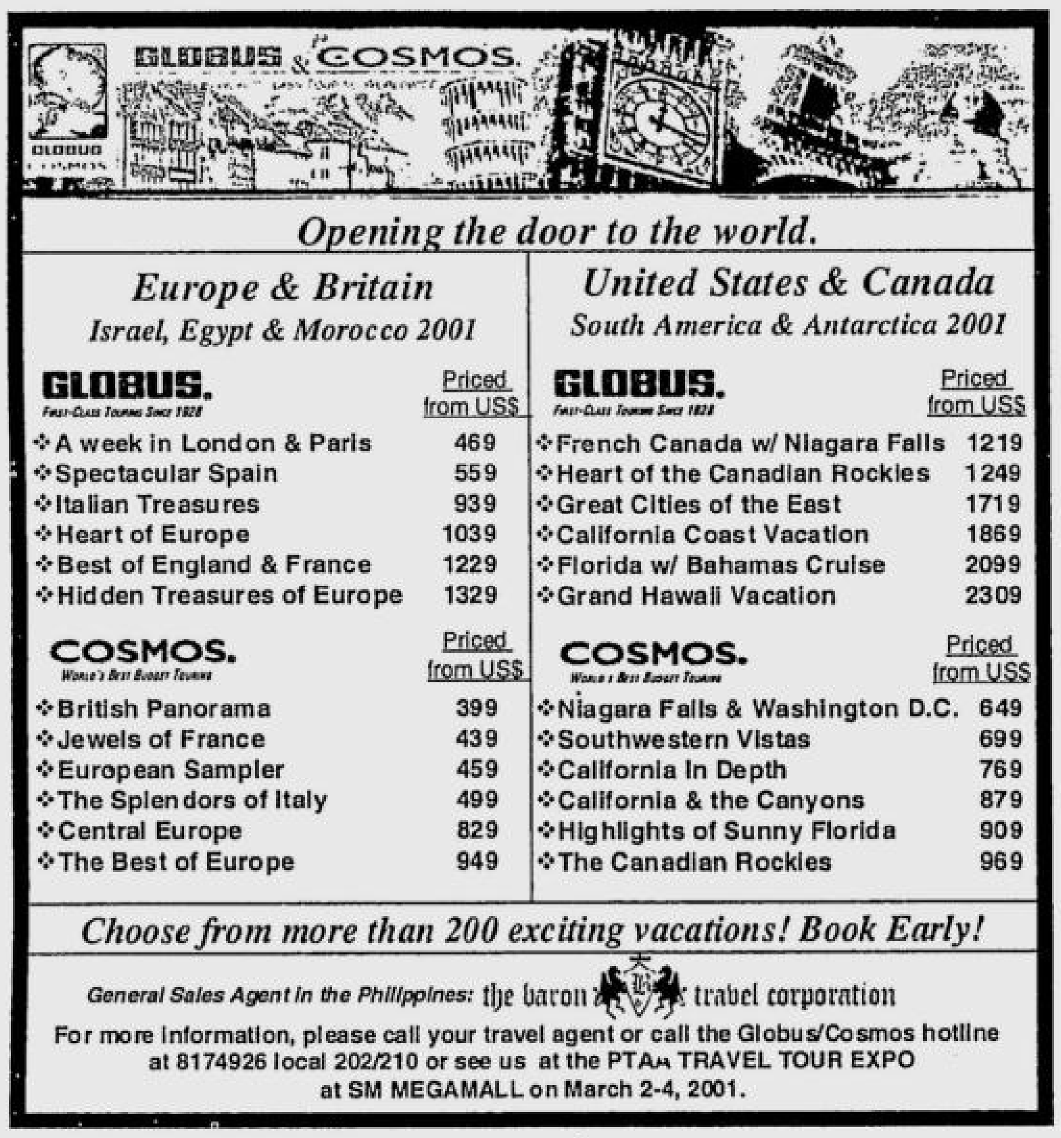
Ad ban bill sent back to bicam

CONGRESSMEN last night voted to return to the bicameral panel the proposal to lift the ban on political advertisements so that President Macapagal-Arroyo would not have to resign should she decide to run for president in 2004.

The solons agreed to amend Section 12 of the bill which states that any elected official who will run for president or vice president "is deemed resigned upon the filing of his candidacy."

Sen. Raul Roco warned Congress about the provision, saying its inclusion in the bill in case it is approved would mean Ms Macapagal must resign should she file her candidacy for president in 2004.

Congressmen have apparently realized the problems that such a situation would present should the bill, once signed into law, force Ms Macapagal to step down and create a new vacancy in Malacañang.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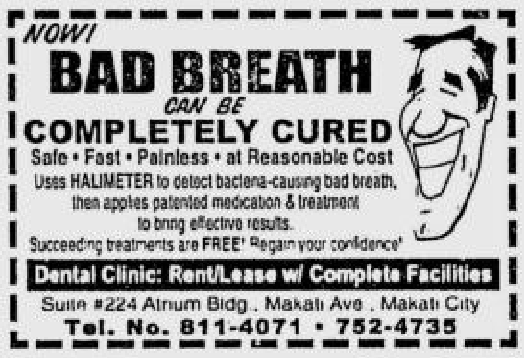
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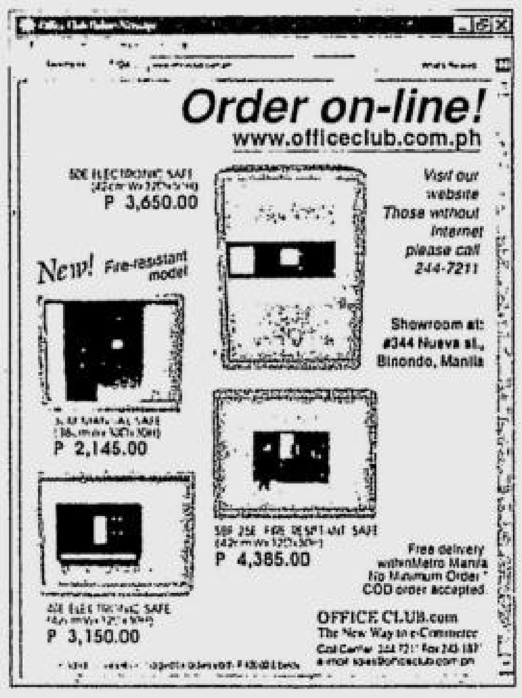
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- DRA. LINDA G. BALCITA/OB Gyne

My daughter Maybel, now 7 yrs. old is asthmatic since she was 2 yrs. old. She has 3 x a month attack every now and then. When I gave her ABS Bitter Herbs, 1 capsule everyday, she never had an asthma attack anymore. Thanks to ABS Bitter Herbs.
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Mayon folk say they're set to flee

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 100,000 villagers living along the slopes of Mt. Mayon have said they are ready to be evacuated after the volcano showed more signs of restiveness, indicating an imminent eruption.

But the Provincial Disaster Management Office has determined that only some 20,000 villagers needed to be immediately evacuated.

At least a dozen military and civilian trucks have been pre-positioned at Camp Gen. Simeon Ola here and in the towns of Daraga, Camalig, Guinobatan, Sto. Domingo and Tabaco to ferry residents to evacuation camps. They will be temporarily housed in 13 public schools.

Residents of some villages in Guinobatan, although well outside the 6km-radius permanent danger zone (PDZ), are also preparing to evacuate their homes.

"While it is true that we live outside the PDZ, we have always evacuated on our own… Who knows, we might be caught flat-footed, considering the fickleness of Mayon," Louie Regonaos, a resident of Barangay Muladbucad, Guinobatan, told the INQUIRER.

In Malilipot town, local government units said they were hesitant to evacuate residents of three villages in the PDZ and take them to safer places because of lack of food.

Residents of barangays Calbayog, Canaway and San Roque, particularly those in Sitio Cabugao, said they wanted to go to the evacuation centers as they believe Mt. Mayon Volcano would erupt soon.

Residents interviewed by the INQUIRER claimed that they oftentimes heard rumbling sounds from the volcano, especially at night.

Canaway barangay captain Alfredo Brutas said at least 10 families had been seeking refuge at the Canaway Elementary School for two days now even when authorities had not declared an evacuation.

"They consumed several sacks of rice and dozens of sardines at my own expense," he said.

Mayor Edgar Bilasano said he could not declare an evacuation unless the Albay Provincial Safety Office (APSO) advises him to do so.

Alert level

Until the Phivolcs raises the alert level from 3 to 4, APSO and its municipal counterparts cannot enforce evacuation.

Phivolcs Ligñon Hill Observatory resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said described what he called the "parameters" of an impending volcanic eruption: appearance of continued crater glow, consistent low frequency volcanic tremors and sulfur dioxide emissions.

A faint crater glow has been observed for a longer period lately since Mayon started acting up last month.

Thick cloud formations have hampered visual observation of the crater as well as detection of sulfur dioxide emissions, a very important source of baseline data for assessing Mayon's restiveness.

Laguerta said these manifestations indicate an intensified abnormal behavior of the volcano.

He said Phivolcs might raise the present alert status from level 3 to 4 if the glowing of incandescent materials at the crater summit intensifies in the coming days.

Alert level 4 indicates that eruption may take place within hours or days upon advice. *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Palace nixes hostage talks

MALACAÑANG yesterday spurned talks with Abu Sayyaf gunmen who had threatened to behead American hostage Jeffrey Schilling, saying its policy was not to deal with bandits.

"We are committed to the peace process but when it comes to these groups who are killers… and have no ideology, the policy of the government is not to negotiate with them," Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said in a Manila radio station interview.

DzRH said on Sunday Abu Sabaya, a spokesman for the Abu Sayyaf extremists had called the station and renewed the group's threat to behead Schilling, a 25-year-old Oakland resident, who has been held for more than five months on Jolo island in Mindanao, unless the group received a $10-million ransom.

Sabaya also told a radio station in Zamboanga City yesterday he wanted to negotiate directly with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. It is not clear why the group chose Gordon.

The group also threatened to kill Schilling last week but a ransom deadline of last Wednesday passed, apparently without incident.

Both the Philippine and the US governments have refused to pay the ransom.

"It is better to kill him if they don't want to negotiate," Sabaya said. "Let this be a warning because once we set the date of the execution, then there will be no stopping."

Sabaya said Schilling's health was deteriorating rapidly.

"Jeffrey is very sick and continues to cough blood," Sabaya said. "He is not eating anymore."

Schilling, a convert to Islam, has been held by the Abu Sayyaf since August when he and his Muslim wife, who is a relative of one of the gunmen, visited the Abu Sayyaf camp. *Reuters and AP*

Officials step up lobbying for VP

By Christine Avendaño

MALACAÑANG is being swamped with suggestions and unsolicited advice as President Macapagal-Arroyo prepares to announce her choice for vice president this week.

Chief of staff Renato Corona said yesterday many governors and local officials have been endorsing various candidates for the post.

The Palace plans to announce the President's choice before Congress adjourns on Feb. 9.

Corona said he believes the President may either have narrowed the choice down to two, or already has someone in mind and was in the process of consulting various groups on his acceptability.

He said there were four senators who are in contention: Franklin Drilon, Teofisto Guingona, Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Raul Roco.

Corona stressed that "no one can second-guess" the President on her eventual choice.

"You must understand that never before in (our) history have we been confronted by a situation like this," Corona added.

In the Senate, two senators objected to Ms Macapagal's assertion that she was not compelled by law to immediately appoint a vice president and could even keep the post vacant for the rest of her term.

They said appointing a vice president now would help in her efforts to unify the country.

Sen. Miriam Santiago said keeping the VP post vacant until the next presidential elections in 2004 cannot be allowed under the Constitution.

Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad said Ms Macapagal's refusal to fill up the post could strengthen ousted President Joseph Estrada's claim that she is only acting president.

With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana

French fugitive's girlfriend hunted

AUTHORITIES have launched a hunt for the Filipina girlfriend of a high-profile French fugitive who was arrested and deported to Paris on corruption charges, officials said yesterday.

Alfred Sirven, 74, the ex-number two at oil giant Elf Aquitaine, had been hiding in the Philippines while on the run for more than four years, evading a string of corruption and influence-peddling scandals in France.

Lawmen on Friday finally caught up with the slippery fugitive at his luxury mansion in Tagaytay.

Hours after his arrest, Sirven was put to a plane for Frankfurt, Germany, where he was to appear Monday before magistrates for an extradition procedure which officials in Paris hope could be over within hours.

"As far as Sirven's case is concerned, I think it is closed unless of course the French authorities want us to pursue it further. But not (his girlfriend) Vilma's case," special agent James Tosoc at the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation said.

Sirven had been apparently shielded by his alleged lover Vilma Aguilando Medina, who had worked for him as an assistant back in Paris. *AFP*

Danding son says Gloria's vindictive

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAGO CITY—Negros Occidental Rep. Carlos Cojuangco said yesterday efforts by the government to wrest control of San Miguel Corp. from his father, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, was a sign the Macapagal administration was vindictive.

"I thought the platform of government (of Ms Macapagal) was 'We will not be vindictive, we are for the growth of the economy, we will do what is right within the law,'" he told the INQUIRER.

"They should do what they say if they do not want to send the wrong signals," he added.

"If the government takes over SMC and if you are a foreign investor, why should you invest in a company that has no closure on an issue that prevents it from competing in the financial world?" asked the young Cojuangco.

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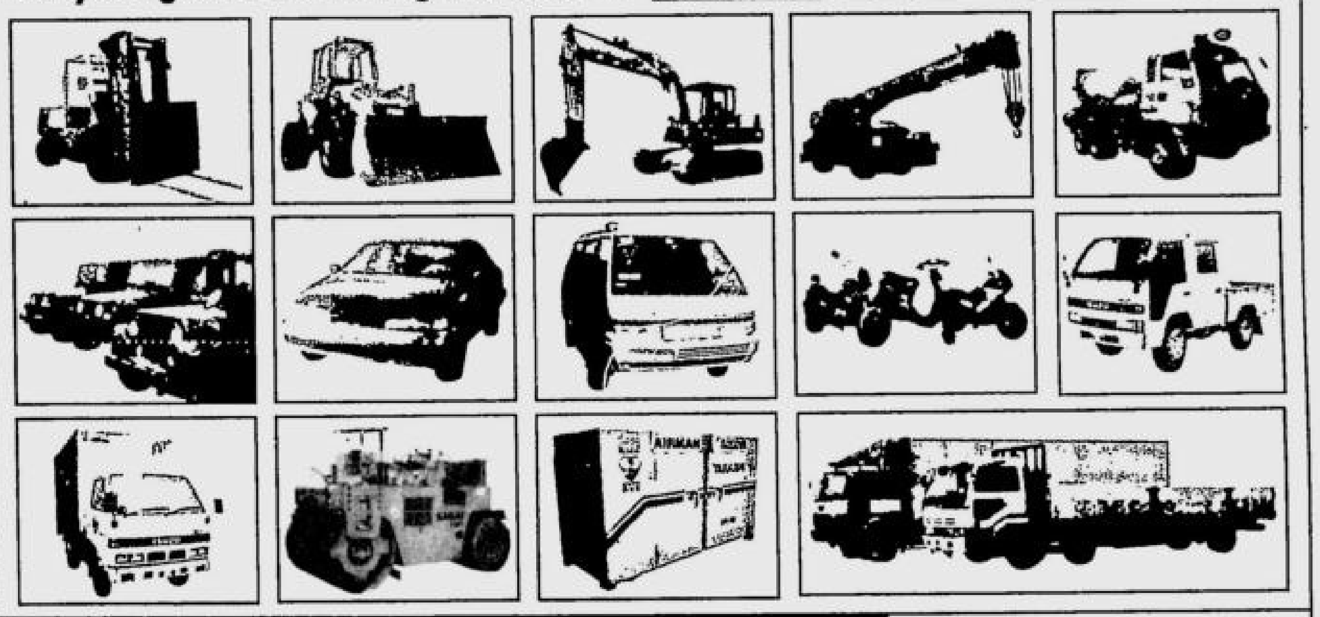

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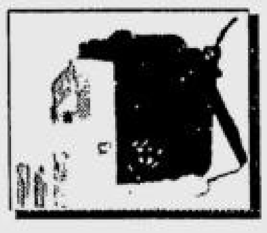

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Lucio Tan dumps Erap, hails Gloria

(From page A1)

dent, there's again another set of black propaganda going around saying that I am asking P300 million from the Chinese community, otherwise there will be kidnappings. Has anybody received any demands from me for P300 million?" she again asked.

She then asked the Chinese-Filipino businessmen to defend her against such attacks on her integrity.

To prove her concern for the Chinese-Filipino community, she said she had ordered the Philippine National Police to continue their watch against kidnapping.

She promised them a "level playing field" and the protection of their rights.

Ms Macapagal revealed that she too had ties with the Chinese through her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

With her husband beaming to her left, Ms Macapagal said her "husband is descended from Sun Tua, later on called Don Antonio Tuazon, who was a Chinese businessman."

The President recalled that Sun Tua was a Binondo businessman who did well during the galleon trade.

"When the British invasion took place, Sun Tua helped the Spanish governor general put up an Army battalion for him. And he financed part of the defense of the Spanish governor general against the British invaders. So, when the British left, the Spanish Governor General rewarded Sun Tua with Spanish citizenship and a rank of nobility," the President said.

"So you have a President whose husband descended from a very Chinese family from the 18th century," she said.

During the meeting, the FFCCCI raised concerns affecting Chinese-Filipinos and their businesses. These included smuggling, dumping of imported products into the country and industrial peace.

"Smuggling and (the dumping of foreign goods here) are really killing our industry," Angping said.

He added that in the last two years, "we suffered a lot because of smuggling of different items" and that these were sold in Divisoria, Manila and other commercial areas.

Because of smuggling and dumping of cheap raw materials and finished products, "a lot of factories had to close shop the last two years," Angping said

Tan and the FFCCCI also supported Joseph Estrada when he was the President.

In a courtesy call on Estrada on April 8, 1999, newly inducted FFCCCI president Tan said the federation under his leadership "will pursue with greater vigor (our) commitment of giving full and unwavering support to all the policies, projects and programs of the government of our beloved President Joseph Ejercito Estrada. The federation will rally behind him in his battlecry, "*Erap Para sa Mahirap.*"

Tan was elected president of the federation after eyeing the post for 25 years.

Angping said the post had long eluded Tan due to the dominance of the "Taiwan group" in the federation. Tan was described as representing the other group of businessmen tracing their roots to mainland China.

Erap thinks Dichaves fled with his P300M

(From page A1)

height of Edsa People Power revolution II.

Dichaves, who had no official position, but was believed to be one of Estrada's closest and most trusted henchmen, left on Jan. 19, the day before his patron was ousted.

Estrada now suspects that Dichaves could have brought with him P300 million in cash from the sale of two condominium floors owned by Estrada, according to a former top official of the Estrada administration.

The property was bought under the name of Dichaves, which, as the impeachment trial of Estrada showed, was typical of the method the former president used to acquire property or open bank accounts.

During the trial, Dichaves tried to claim ownership of the P3.2-billion account at Equitable PCI Bank under the account name of "Jose Velarde." A bank executive had testified that she saw Estrada sign the name Jose Velarde on the bank documents pertaining to the account.

The sale of the condos was made in December. Estrada was reportedly not informed about the sale.

"Dichaves, we learned, ran away with some personal funds of President Estrada," the source told the INQUIRER.

According to the source, Dichaves is believed to be hiding in Canada. He is reportedly a Canadian citizen.

The source also told the INQUIRER that due to Dichaves' flight, Estrada was now in a tight financial fix.

"He is having serious financial problems, given the many extended families he supports and his lavish lifestyle. They are into some kind of hardship," the source said.

As of now, he said the ex-president could not touch his other assets as these are all deemed frozen by the government.

A mainstay of the "Midnight Cabinet," Dichaves is a fiberglass manufacturer and real estate developer.

He was involved in the corporate coup that ousted the Roberto Ongpin group from Belle Resources Corp. that had been awarded by Pagcor to operate jai alai.

His influence on Estrada reportedly provided him the clout to run the Department of Transportation and Communication as though it was his own fiefdom. Not surprisingly, he became one of the country's largest suppliers in the telecommunications industry.

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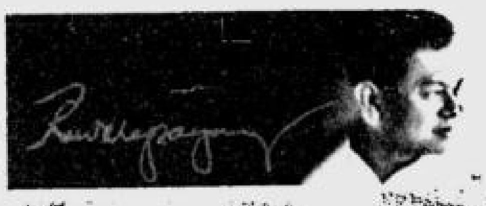

Montemayor gets agri post

(From page A1)

vitation for him to take up the environment portfolio, saying it would be better if the post went to a "professional" like former Environment Secretary Victor Ramos.

Zubiri made the announcement at yesterday's session in the House, after about 50 of his colleagues signed a resolution endorsing him to the post.

"I am honored to have been named, but I have to respectfully decline," he said.

Among the other appointments Cabrera announced were those of Nicanor Tiongson as chair of the Movie Television Review and Classification Board; Milwida Guevarra and Juanita Amatong, finance undersecretaries; and Jocelyn Bolante, agriculture undersecretary for finance and administration.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco confirmed that the President had also appointed Ma. Viviana "Honeygirl" Singson to the board of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Singson assumed her post yesterday. She is the sister of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, whose "Juetengate" expose triggered former President Joseph Estrada's downfall.

Lucrative post

It did not surprise diplomats that the new administration would take over Meco.

"It's a very, very lucrative post, so people would fight just to get in," said a diplomat who requested anonymity.

Cabrera said Golamco would chair Meco in an acting capacity until a complete team had been formed to take over the operations of the Taipei-based office.

"In line with this appointment, the President expects full cooperation from Meco officials for Ms Golamco when she takes over the chairmanship of Meco (today)," he said.

Golamco succeeds former Sen. Eva Estrada-Kalaw, who was reported to have been against the decision of the Macapagal administration to put Meco under the Office of the Executive Secretary.

Capco, however, clarified that Meco was still under the operational supervision of the Office of the President, in line with Executive Order No. 229 issued by Estrada.

He said the government was now operating under that executive order.

Cabrera pointed out that Golamco's appointment was not in violation of the country's One-China policy. He said it was only an administrative matter aimed at securing and preserving Meco assets.

He also said the move to freeze Meco assets was made according to the recommendations of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Although it functions as an embassy, Meco is not considered an embassy, much less a government corporation, the diplomat said.

According to the diplomat, Meco is considered a "private corporation," and its considerable income from passport issuance and other consular services are neither audited nor remitted to the government.

"So what happens is, the officials decide among themselves how much their salaries and allowances will be. They spend the money the way they want to," the diplomat said.

The last known figures, the diplomat said, showed that Meco earned around 300,000 Taiwanese dollars during the period 1997-98.

Last year, a foreign affairs official said that as Meco representative based in Taipei, former Press Secretary Rod Reyes would receive a monthly salary equivalent to "between P500,000 and P1 million" apart from other financial perks.

This salary is more than twice that of a Class-1 ambassador.

Free hand

Zubiri said he made the decision to decline the environment portfolio after consulting with his constituents, whom, he noted, he had not served "long enough."

He added: "The President has been criticized for appointing congressmen to the Cabinet. My declining the post will give her a free hand to choose among professionals."

Zubiri, one of the so-called "Spice Boys" in the House, is a first-term congressman and a pro-environment advocate.

Two other "Spice Boys"—Pangasinan Rep. Hernani Braganza and Quezon City Rep. Michael Defensor—were recently named to the Cabinet as agrarian reform secretary and housing chair, respectively.

The other appointees announced yesterday were Sergio Edeza, national treasurer; Agustin Bengzon, acting commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission; Edgardo Pamintuan, member of the board of directors of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority; Maximo Sangil, member of the board of directors of the Clark Development Corp.; and Eustacio Orobia, acting head of the People's Credit and Finance Corp.

Also appointed as presidential advisers were Norberto Gonzales (Cabinet rank), for special concerns; Bernardino Abes, legislative affairs (and concurrent head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office); and Angelito Sarmiento, agricultural modernization.

Former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco was appointed presidential assistant, and Ma. Asuncion Fernando, correspondence secretary at the Office of the President. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Dona Pazzibugan***

JPE, Miriam . . .

(From page A1)

seeking reelection because she would not be "intimidated" against doing so.

The other, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, said he had a "better than even" chance of getting reelected based on his assessment of the "political situation."

Both senators have been named to the slate of Estrada's party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, although Enrile initially filed his certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections as an independent.

At last week's PMP convention, former Executive Secretary and congressional candidate Ronaldo Zamora admitted that the stigma attached to the disgraced Estrada would take its toll on the election bids of his allies and supporters.

"It's going to be an uphill battle," Zamora said.

Santiago expressed annoyance at a recent letter from Acting Foreign Secretary Lauro Baja Jr. suggesting that the government would push for her candidacy for a seat in a special United Nations court provided she decided against seeking reelection.

"I was not going to make that announcement until I was good and ready to lambast my opponents. But since you raised the question, I am going to write Secretary Baja to inform him that I am respectfully requesting the government to withdraw my nomination," Santiago told reporters.

She added: "I do not accept that I should be intimidated from running for reelection with the warning that if I (do), the government will not campaign for my candidacy (as a member of the UN court)."

In his letter, Baja told Santiago that the Department of Foreign Affairs officially launched her candidacy last Dec. 18 in New York.

"The department is therefore working on the premise that the honorable senator will not be seeking another term in the Senate during the May 2001 elections," he said.

He requested "a clear indication" from her "that with the understanding that she will have to be in the Netherlands full time, she still intends to pursue her ICTY candidacy."

According to Santiago, the "very clear message" of Baja's letter "is that if I run for reelection, the government will withdraw my nomination or will not campaign (for me)."

She said she did not care if Baja dropped her candidacy.

"I do not value this candidature for myself as much as I do for my country. And if I am being punished because of my association with the Estrada administration, then I will accept the punishment as a person. But I'm not going to be intimidated," she said.

"And since I have already decided that I will no longer allow my government to campaign on my behalf, I would also like to make the concurrent announcement that as of today, I'm going to think very seriously about running for reelection," she said.

In an ambush interview after a forum at the Manila Hotel, an upbeat Enrile said: "I believe that I have a better than even chance of making it. I have assessed the political situation across the land, province by province. I did it on my own—from Batanes all the way to Tawi-tawi."

Earlier at the forum, Enrile admitted that his decision to drop his planned run for Congress and seek reelection had been prompted by the public outrage over his and 10 other senators' "No" vote.

"I would like to go back to the people and be judged by them in this election so that I will know if I, according to their perception, committed a grievous error," he said.

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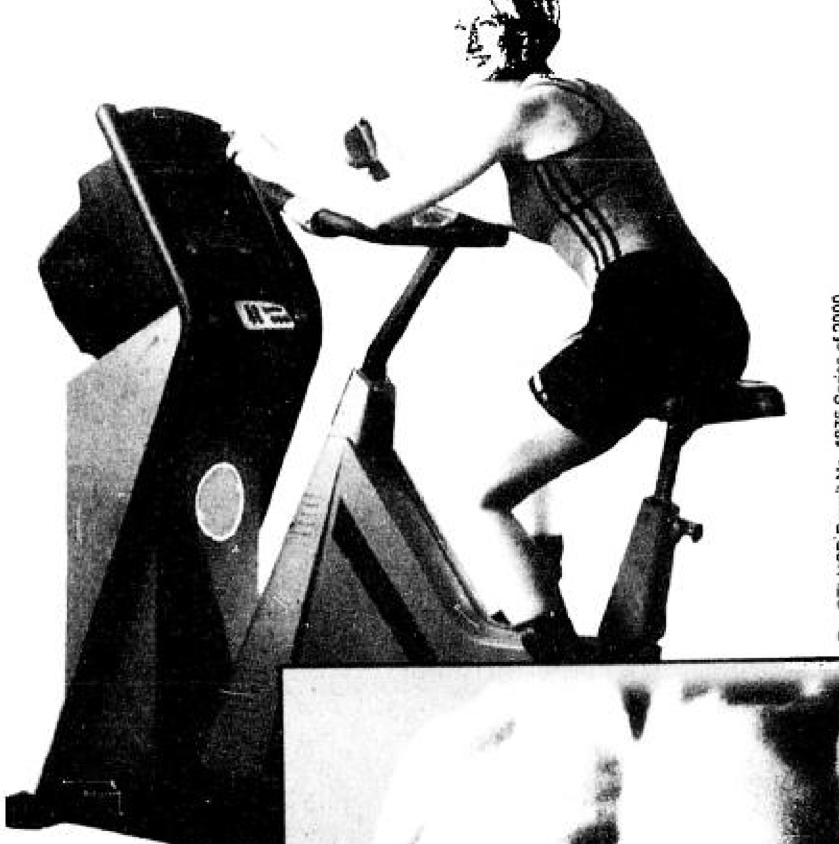

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OPINION

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Reconciliation with justice

EDITORIAL

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has a surfeit of former cronies and associates of deposed President Joseph Estrada who have offered to give evidence against him in criminal cases alleging plunder and corruption. They include Mark Jimenez, lawyer Edward Serapio and Charlie "Atong" Ang.

These people have joined the exodus of Estrada allies who have abandoned him not merely because they want to be with the winning side but because they are primarily interested in saving their hides. Jimenez, who brokered, among other deals, First Pacific's P30-billion takeover of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., faces an extradition request from the United States government in connection with charges of tax evasion, fraud and illegal campaign contributions. Serapio faces possible disbarment for his testimony at the Estrada impeachment trial on the shell Muslim Youth Foundation which was allegedly used as a front to launder *jueteng* money received by Estrada. Ang can shed more light on the *jueteng* payoffs to Estrada alleged by Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

These offers reek of opportunism. These cronies and Estrada associates are out to cut a deal that would buy them leniency in exchange for evidence against the man they have betrayed. The problem, as pointed out by impeachment trial prosecutor, Rep. Joker Arroyo, is that these potential witnesses could be as guilty as Estrada of corruption charges. In any case, private prosecutors who have been assigned to prosecute the cases with the Ombudsman and Sandiganbayan have doubts whether new testimony by the cronies can strengthen the evidence introduced in the impeachment trial and now in the hands of the House prosecution panel.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has said that he is studying the offers. The criterion, he says, is whether crony evidence is necessary to make the new government's case stronger in sending Estrada to jail. Perez hints that his department might be selective in accepting the crony offers.

Our view is that anything that will strengthen the government's case against Estrada should not be excluded, but the assessment of whether the evidence already in government hands is sufficient to back the complaints is now the responsibility of Perez. He has to strike a balance between adequate evidence and plea bargain testimony.

The new government cannot ignore that it is under close scrutiny by the civil society groups that powered the movement to depose Estrada at Edsa and all over the country. Of special interest to these groups is whether the administration has the capacity to conduct a speedy trial, consistent with the rule of law. Before the ouster of Estrada, considerable evidence on corruption and plunder had been organized and introduced at the impeachment trial. The trial laid the preparatory basis for further criminal action in the courts of law. Half of the job of government prosecutors has already been done. This should make for a speedy trial.

What happened a decade and a half ago should not be allowed to happen again, when after the dictator Ferdinand Marcos had been toppled, the successor government of President Aquino failed to bring him and his heirs and cronies to justice. That failure enabled the Marcoses and their cronies to return to political life and regain their economic assets, making a mockery of People Power I.

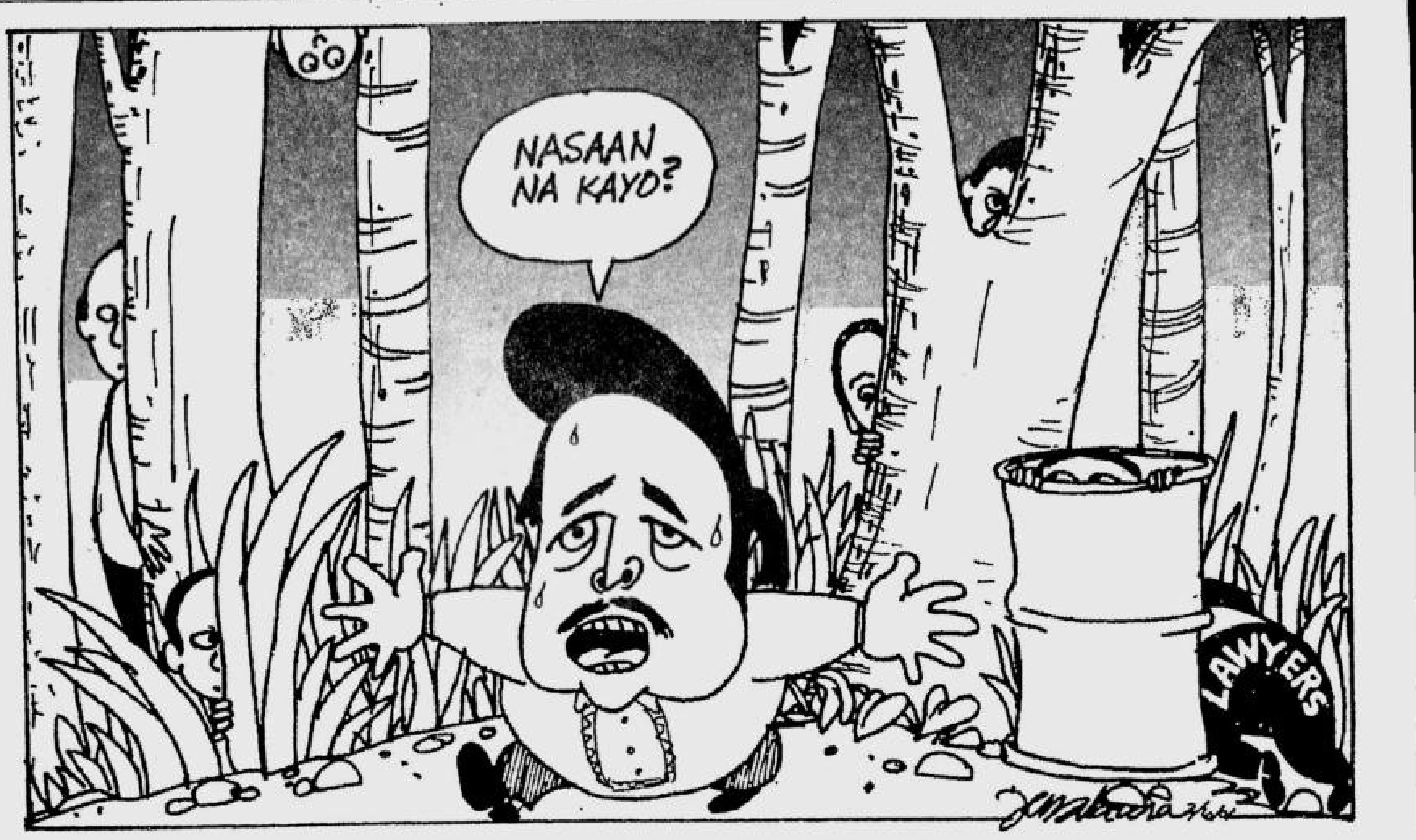
The Macapagal administration has no excuse for not bringing a case against Estrada before the courts within its first 100 days. Failure to do so would bring disenchantment to Ms Macapagal's broad constituency at Edsa and undermine the stability of the government until the next presidential election in 2004.

The new government has in its hands not only a glut of evidence of Estrada's wrongdoing but also of witnesses. It has access to vital documents. It can focus its resources on a speedy trial. The focused impeachment trial in the Senate showed that swift trials are not an impossibility under the Philippine judicial system. The trial of Estrada can be compressed while the new government gains a wider mandate and enjoys the advantage of the Edsa euphoria.

For the first time in history, we are on the threshold of prosecuting a president in a criminal case and sending him to jail. The case of plunder carries the death penalty and is a non-bailable crime.

South Korea, in its transition from military dictatorship, succeeded in sending two presidents—Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo—for corruption and human rights violations. Indonesia, under former President Suharto, put President Sukarno, the founder of modern Indonesia, under house arrest until his death.

In the Estrada criminal trial, Filipinos will get their first opportunity to send high officials to jail for wrongdoing. It will be the most important deterrent to corruption and give flesh to the idea of national reconciliation with justice.



The Little President at his unguarded worst

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I WAS wrong when I wrote here last Feb. 2 that unlike other countries, we have three presidents—an acting president, a president on leave and a de facto president. It turns out there is a fourth; the Little President, who is not little at all but is in fact very big both physically and in terms of the power he wields compared to that of our petite President.

A source inside Malacañang told me that the Little President, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, has the most number of recommendees appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, including the two most controversial ones, retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia and Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police. What De Villa was unable to achieve as a presidential candidate, he achieved with People Power II.

In fact, the President deferred to him when Carina Agarao, Teresita Ang See and Alex Melchor, leaders of anticrime watchdog groups, talked to her to oppose the appointment of Mendoza. President Macapagal and Paul Dominguez talked to them at Burgundy Place at past midnight of Sunday, Jan. 21.

Dominguez kept repeating that they "owe" Mendoza, that the appointment was non-negotiable, that Estrada and his men were plotting a counter-coup at Polk Street, San Juan.

"*Bakit hindi n'yo arestuhin?*" Agarao asked.

Ang See told Dominguez: "I am disappointed at you for committing the same mistake that Erap, Maceda, Enrile and Honasan did, underestimating People Power. Who is Estrada now*? May kaya pa ba siya* to threaten the government? You are deliberately feeding on the President's fear of destabilization."

Then she read text messages about the resurgence of kidnapping. "That is true destabilization. We kicked out a *jueteng* lord and now put a kidnapper on top of the PNP. Destabilization does not even have to come from me or Carina; people know of Mendoza's record. What happens if tomorrow, somebody publishes a full-page list of Mendoza's gambling debts?"

That softened the President. She didn't have to announce Mendoza's appointment. But she still deferred to De Villa. She asked the trio to talk to him.

De Villa was hostile from the very start. "I will go straight to the point," he said. "I will not let groups like you blackmail me into withdrawing appointments of people who are not acceptable to you."

Agarao: "Oops, who's blackmailing whom? We came here out of concern for the President. We could have gone home and then just put our concerns to the media."

Agarao explained why they were there: It is difficult enough to build trust and confidence in the police as in institution. How much more difficult it would be if the chief of that institution poses a problem from the very start because of his tainted record. She mentioned a videotape of Mendoza showing him losing millions in gambling.

De Villa: "You mean a videotape can show somebody losing millions?"

Agarao: "Well, that was what FVR's guy told me."

De Villa: "Oh, so you're making FVR your witness now. You want me to call him?"

Ang See: "Sir, this is my personal knowledge. One of his policemen told me that *si* LM, when he plays dice, the stake is P100,000 per throw.

De Villa: "*Oo*, Raffy Alunan told me that he investigated LM upon your complaint."

Ang See: "No, not upon my complaint but upon Mendoza's own men's complaint."

De Villa: "I told the President that if she withdraws the appointment of General Mendoza, she better not sign any other document because her signature will not mean anything anymore."

Ang See: "Isn't it better to admit that there is a mistake before the mistake is revealed rather than act on it later?"

After some more exchanges, De Villa asked: "*Sino ba ang kandidato n'yo?*

Agarao: "Sir, *wala ho kaming irerekomenda.* We didn't come here for that.

Ang See: "All four directorial staff under Lacson are acceptable: Wycoco, Canson, Peña and Aglipay—anyone is acceptable."

De Villa: "*Dapat ba* acceptable *sa inyo yung mga ia*-appoint *namin*?

Agaro: "*Tama ho 'yon,* General. *Sino nga ba naman ho si* Carina Agarao *at* Teresita Ang See. *Kami naman ho,* we can only forewarn you. *Nung* time *ho ni* President Aquino, *nagbigay din kami ng* inputs. *Nung* time *ho ni* President Ramos, *kinukunsulta kami. Nung* time *ni* Erap, *may* time *na ayaw niyang pakinggan ang mga tao, e di na*-impeach *siya. Gobyerno n'yo ho ang babagsak, hindi naman kami!*"

De Villa: "*Alam ko naman na may gusto kayong ilagay. Alam ko, mahigpit ang laban* among the DCO, DCA..."

Agarao: "*Wala ho kaming pakialam kung sino ang ia*-appoint *n'yo. Ang* concern *lang namin, sana 'yung walang bahid ang pangalan...*"

De Villa: "*Bakit, meron ba diyan na walang bahid ang pangalan? Lahat 'yan meron.*"

Agarao: "Oh my God! Sir, as we talk, *hindi ko nga ho alam kung nandodoon na 'yung bumaril sa asawa ko at kung buhay yon, kasi* the moment *na hinuli 'yon, pilit na ilalalabas nila* Hector Samonte *kaagad. Ang sama nito, nag*-confess *na! Itinuro na si* Samonte, *e kaibigan ni* Samonte *si* Mendoza!"

De Villa: "*Wala, pirmado na! Ano naman ang itsura ng Presidente kung urong-sulong sa* appointment *niya?*"

Agarao; "*Hindi ho yun ang* point. *Ang mahalaga ho* she responded to the people.

De Villa: "No, *hindi puwede. Hindi puwede ang Presidenteng ganyan. Pag na-pirmahan na, yun na yon.* No way will I ask her to withdraw that appointment."

Agarao: "Tessie, *halika na, alis na tayo. Nagsasayang lang tayo ng oras dito.*"

So they stood up and left.

Postscript

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I MUST confess the cold response of the American media community to People Power II bowled me over. It was a puzzlement, to borrow Yul Brynner's words from "The King and I," a musical patronizing of Asians, to me for some time. Anthony Spaeth would say it was little more than mob rule. Sandra Burton, who wrote glowingly of the first Edsa, would say there was no second one. The LA Times would say it was a conspiracy of the elite.

I cannot understand this because even at the level of the obvious, it is hard see how foreign observers could possibly miss the point. People Power II not only has not impaired any of the democratic institutions or processes or tenets People Power I restored, it has strengthened them. More so than at any time in the past.

Let us run through just a few of them:

The courts: For the first time since the Commonwealth, Filipinos have gotten to trust the courts again. A great deal of this owes to Hilario Davide Jr, who presided over the trial in a way every Filipino could be proud of. The Pulse Asia survey merely confirms what I've been telling TV reporters again and again: If presidential elections were held today, and if he were to run, Davide would win hands down. Thanks to him, the reputation of lawyers as shysters and law as a means to foil justice, a reputation Ferdinand Marcos and previous chief justices—chief of them Andres Narvasa—etched in tablet, or branded in the Filipino mind, has been much dispelled. Thanks to him, Filipinos now believe the law can be used for legal ends.

The Constitution: Lest we forget, that Constitution contains provisions on impeachment and people's initiative, provisions that until the last three months remained only on paper. People Power II unlocked the power of those provisions. You won't find better proof that it obeyed that Constitution to the letter than that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is President. Many Filipinos do not particularly like her. But the Constitution says she is Erap's successor, and so she has become.

The Senate: For the first time since before martial law, the Senate regained part of the luster it seemed to have lost forever. Filipinos realized once again that the Senate was meant to debate the life and death of the nation and not the life and lay of the Brunei Beauties. By itself, it may have arrested the slide of Philippine politics into show biz. None of the senators who voted to open the second letter thought the explosion of popular outrage that became People Power II interrupted their proceedings. Everyone thought it brought a poetic closure to the proceedings. That included most of the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the envelope, some of whom tried to crash the Edsa Shrine and ended up being chased by—thank God—an angry mob.

Good government: For the first time in Philippine history, Filipinos got to feel they could do something about wrongdoing in public office. They could bring the culprits to the court of law, or failing that, to the court of public opinion. If that isn't empowerment, I don't know what is.

You can go down the list, from education (the impeachment trial was a monumental exercise in it) to the Church or organized religion (People Power subtracted from the recidivist aspects of religion, though added new layers of superstition to it as well—it's fertile ground for research), and you will not find one democratic institution People Power savaged. Indeed you can go down the list, from narrowing the class divide (People Power II drew in the poor as much as the rich) to realizing "*Vox populi, vox Dei,*" and you will not find any democratic tenet People Power failed to uphold.

So whence come American media's blinders?

I suppose there are always the perils of parachute journalism. You descend into a country and make judgments about it after hanging out in hotel lobbies or sidewalk cafés and talking to businessmen and public officials, and you'll get to be as insightful about it as American officials were about the Vietnam War. At best, you'll get a sense of the country from the perspective of its rich and powerful, which is rarely an accurate gauge when you're looking at stirrings from below. Which was what People Power II was.

Yet another reason for it is that the drama of People Power II was largely internal, in contrast to People Power I, which was largely external. All the foreign press saw was a sudden explosion, which seemed to have neither rhyme nor reason, neither traditional leaders nor an understandable chain of cause and effect. Yet if you were a Filipino, patriate or expatriate—Filipinos in the United States themselves couldn't understand why Spaeth et al. couldn't get it—you would know that explosion wasn't sudden at all. You would see it was coming. It was the product, as I've said repeatedly, of education and provocation, the education worked by Davide et al, and the provocation wreaked by Enrile et al.

But more than all that, the lack of understanding and appreciation by the American media of People Power II can truly be explained only by arrogance and condescension. Those things don't just make for blinders, they make for blindness.

In the end, what made People Power II decisively different from People Power I was the total absence of an American role. Indeed, from the other end, the presence of the Left in it, which to Americans must, by definition, suggest mob. People Power I, as told by American journalists, was the story of Filipino exiles in the United States who came back on the wings of their leader's blood, and with the help of the US State Department and American legislators—"Cut and cut cleanly," Paul Laxalt would say, the modern-day mythical equivalent of McArthur's "I shall return"—toppled a dictator. With some credit thrown the way of a faceless mass that Ninoy said were worth dying for.

No such luck with People Power II. This was strictly homegrown, and to the horror of journalists steeped in American democracy, it was instigated by the people themselves. Or their closest representatives, who were the NGOs, the people's organizations and the activists—the people who were there from the start and who there at the end. Unable to believe this, they would insist it was a conspiracy mounted by Corazon Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, against a popular leader, though one given to hoodlum politics. Unable to believe this, they would say it wasn't a breathtaking display of people's will, it was mob rule.

You need one last refutation of it, there's always Lee Kuan Yew who says People Power II was a most undemocratic thing to do.

The greatest radio-TV 'novela' in RP history

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT LAST Saturday's dinner tendered by President Macapagal in Malacañang to conclude the two-day First National Soap Opera Summit for Social Change, I had the chance to chat very briefly with her as she greeted guests. It was the first time I saw GMA since she took her oath at the Edsa Shrine last Jan. 20. She appeared to have lost some weight. "It's been a most difficult two weeks, hasn't it?" I asked her, thinking of all the pressures being applied on her and all the groups and people trying to get her attention. The President smiled and nodded, but added, "It didn't surprise me, though, that it is difficult." She said she saw how difficult it was for her father when he started out as president. I told her the entire nation was praying for her success and that she had the support of most citizens.

I imagine that Cong Dadong didn't have half as tough a time as his daughter now, for he assumed office under normal times while GMA's climb to the top was somewhat revolutionary in character. Up to now, the situation has not stabilized fully as cohorts of the former president, a tiny minority but with plenty of money, continue to question the legitimacy of her assumption of the presidency.

* * *

The Soap Opera Summit which opened last Friday at the House of Representatives, with Speaker Sonny Belmonte, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas and several other groups as sponsors, drew all those who work in the *telenovela* and *radionovela* genres—TV/radio scriptwriters, directors, actors, producers and executives—as well as the change agents in government, civil society and the academe. The star-studded affair drew many performers who led the grand revolutionary festival at Edsa Dos, as well as trimedia personalities. Among them were Kuh Ledesma, Tessie Tomas, Celeste Legaspi, Leah Navarro, Mitch Valdez, Bart Guingona, Ricky Lee, Mari Kaimo and Apa Ongpin.

A number of soap opera personalities from abroad also came. One was Miguel Sabido, the world-renowned Mexican TV producer-director and writer, a pioneer in the production of socially beneficial *telenovelas* in his country. He came with popular Mexican TV-radio public affairs host Sergio Alarcon. Other visiting experts included Bill Ryerson and David Poindexter, president and honorary chair of the US-based Population Media Center, respectively.

* * *

The Soap Opera Summit sought to find ways and means to integrate social issues into soap operas so that they could serve as a vehicle to uphold value formation and mold a responsible citizenry. Soap opera has been so popular in this country over the decades, and in fact, in her address before the summit participants and arts and media practitioners, Ms Macapagal acknowledged that they "wield a very special power that none of us politicians have." She stressed the "very real and potent aspects of soap opera as a serious medium for social change," adding that, "as we all know, ordinary Filipinos learn lessons and make value judgments based on these dramas—for better or for worse."

* * *

GMA stressed that soap operas constitute a powerful tool for tackling problems like ignorance, especially of the political kind, poverty, corruption, pollution, crime and injustice, and instilling values such as faith in God, the primacy of the family, a sound work ethic and education, honesty and integrity, recognition of the role of women, peaceful conflict resolution, etc. She should know, for her father was a *zarzuelista* at one time in his youth in Pampanga. The first President Macapagal signed a law on culture but this was set aside when his successor, President Marcos, allowed Imelda to build the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

* * *

In this country where perhaps three-fourths of the population is hooked on radio and *telenovelas*, we have only recently come to realize the political potency of this awesome mass vehicle. As Rep. Heherson Alvarez, head of the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (Globe), who co-chaired the Summit with Press Undersecretary for Broadcast Cerge Remonde, put it in his speech during the conference opening: "The greatest radio-TV *novela* was unscripted, without any plot, no known beginning, no known ending, no definite characters, no director. It was totally unrehearsed, and yet it held a whole nation spellbound for at least six to seven hours, five days a week, for over five weeks. And when it was abruptly ended, it sparked a revolution and toppled what was at one time one of the most popular governments in our history."

* * *

Sonny Alvarez, who served as presidential assistant for youth affairs during Diosdado Macapagal's time, pointed out that the Senate impeachment trial was a landmark event in broadcasting history, and that we could derive valuable lessons from it that may help us "revolutionize" soap operas. "If we could get the correct lessons, we may spark a revolution in values and morals," he said, adding that at any rate, one great lesson from the trial is that "what is real is more cogent than fiction; verisimilitude is more important than the contrived."

If you ask me, the value-formation aspect of soap operas has been under-exploited all these decades.

* * *

The dinner for the summit participants gave President Macapagal a chance to articulate her cultural policy, which, she said, was to seek "the reintegration of all Filipinos into a community of shared values." She also used the occasion to formally express her gratitude to the artists and mass media practitioners who had all gone to Edsa in support of People Power. "Thank you all for having been there," she said. "I will not disappoint you. I will give you good governance."

After the dinner, the President went table-hopping and when she came to the table where sat the big stars, she sat down and held an impromptu dialogue with them. The media was shooed away so that a freer dialogue could be conducted. I understand that one of the concerns the artists raised was how to ensure greater transparency in government appointments. GMA spoke to them about the process of selection.

* * *

One thing I must say is that GMA certainly is changing. She is now more open to dialogue, and her seemingly distant air has disappeared. But this is not the only welcome change in the Palace. I noted her simplicity of attire: a working suite and no jewelry except for a pair of pearl earrings. I also noted that the buffet fare was filling but quite simple: a few viands, fruit juice and *pitsi* and *kutsinta* for desert. Gone are the days of the expensive catering, or tables filled to obscenity. The simple fare is most welcome, now that the budgetary deficit threatens to shoot up to P200 billion and unemployment is widespread. The times call for true austerity and government should lead the way.

Why not Haydee for ombudsman?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE NAME of lawyer Haydee Yorac, who gained fame as a feisty Comelec commissioner during the Aquino administration, has surfaced as one of those being considered for Comelec chair, to replace Harriet Demetriou who has resigned.

What I've heard, though, is that Yorac is not too keen on the post, arguing that she served a full stint as commissioner until her retirement. Still, it would be a shame if the Macapagal administration would overlook Yorac. I believe someone of her caliber, integrity and fearlessness is urgently needed in the government. Some months ago she said that while she is enjoying her career as a private lawyer earning a more-than-decent living after laboring in academe and activism all these years, she would be willing to give up all of it if she would be offered a post "where I can make a difference." At that time, she was referring to the offer of former President Erap to head a presidential commission on corruption. She turned down the offer, she said, because it was a "toothless commission" which would only duplicate the functions of the Office of the Ombudsman. Now, if she were to be made ombudsman…

So, instead of returning Yorac to the Comelec, why doesn't President Macapagal take the bold step of naming her as the next ombudsman? The incumbent, Aniano Desierto, is covered by the same Supreme Court ruling that cut short the term of Demetriou at the Comelec by a year. Desierto, however, has joined other constitutional officers in filing a motion for reconsideration with the Court. Can he not be convinced to step down and make way for a successor?

The Office of the Ombudsman, which is better known for going after small fry and ignoring the more serious transgressions of high officials, is going to play an important role in the coming months. It is this office which is expected to investigate and file charges of plunder, bribery and graft and corruption against former President Erap. Its zeal, or lack of it, in pursuing the cases against Erap could determine whether we end up learning the needed lessons as a nation from People Power II, or simply go back to business as usual and brace ourselves for People Power III.

* * *

ANOTHER "lady-in-waiting" is Charito Planas who has been shortlisted to chair the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Though the PCSO is commonly viewed as a "perk" for friends of Malacañang, Charito says that if she is named to the post, she will work to make it truly responsive to the needs of the country's destitute and desperate. An oppositionist who went on self-exile during the martial law years, Charito has devoted the last few years to civic and charitable work, serving as president of the Quezon City Parks Development Foundation.

Former Sen. Letty Ramos Shahani, I heard, has also expressed interest in chairing the National Commission on Culture and the Arts. Manang Letty strikes me as particularly suited for the post, given her abiding interest in matters of culture, values and governance, and the arts. Speculations are also rife on who will be named as chair and president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Among the names I've heard floated: Cecile Guidote Alvarez, Ramon Magsaysay awardee for theater and wife of Rep. Sonny Alvarez; businesswoman Doris Magsaysay Ho, a patron of the arts and daughter of noted painter Anita Magsaysay Ho; and Chinggay Lagdameo, who used be the chair until her unceremonious and acrimonious replacement by Gloria Angara, an Erap appointee.

Finally, who will be named to replace the formidable Armida Siguion-Reyna at the MTRCB? While Tita Midz made no bones about her pro-Erap sentiments, she was widely supported by the movie industry for taking a more liberal stance in movie classification, and defending the industry against its detractors. Names like former MTRCB chair Etta Mendez and even Cecille Alvarez have been floated, but the industry eyes them with distrust, fearing they will take Philippine movies back to the repressive '50s. Others are far more acceptable, including INQUIRER columnist Randy David, critic Bien Lumbera, writer (and former appeals board member like David and Lumbera) Jo Ann Maglipon, and former MTRCB vice chair Pete Lacaba.

* * *

PRESIDENT Macapagal will give the keynote address at the opening ceremonies of the First Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health (APCRH) which will be held at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City from Feb. 15-18.

The APCRH provides a venue for the concrete exchange of experiences and lessons learned throughout the region on the implementation of the Program of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo. It was at the ICPD that the terms "reproductive health" and "reproductive rights" first gained currency.

With the theme "Quality RH: On Track with the International Conference on Population and Development Commitments," the APCRH is designed to provide global, regional and national perspectives on the key issues and future directions of reproductive health. It also aims to build consensus and collaborative networks among countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

It's only right that the conference will be held in this region, which accounts for half of the world's population. With the world population at six billion and growing by 75 million a year, the reproductive health of people in Asia and the Pacific is a major global concern.

Some 1,000 Filipino and Asian and Pacific participants are expected, from government as well as NGOs representing policymakers, community partners, clients, program managers, health professionals, social scientists and donor agencies.

The conference is being organized by the Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare (PNGOC) in collaboration with the Department of Health and the Commission on Population, and sponsored by the UN Population Fund and Ford Foundation.

Forgotten Filipinos (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

LITTLE is known about an illustrious Filipino prelate named Ignacio Salamanca who governed the episcopal see of Cebu in the last quarter of the 18th century. Born in Manila on Jan. 2, 1743, he graduated from the royal school of San Jose. Later he served as rector of the same institution. Much later he was named magistrate, cantor and dean of the Manila Cathedral. He was also a commissioner of the Sta. Cruzada and held important positions in that institution. At the age of 46, he gave up these positions in exchange for the bishopric of Cebu.

The See of Cebu at the time was more extensive than it is today. It comprised the islands of Bohol, Samar, Panay, Negros, Mindanao and the Marianas. Before the diocese of Jaro separated in 1867, it had jurisdiction over 1,977,409 souls. Over 900,000 people later formed the diocese of Sta. Isabel de Jaro, independent of Cebu.

There are no records apparently of the time Bishop Salamanca served in Cebu or when he died. As of 1912 extant documents showed that in 1818 Fr. Joaquin de la Virgen de Espetran, his successor, had taken over. The conclusion is that Salamanca must have died before that date.

Another early Filipino prelate appears to be Dr. Mariano Garcia, born in the suburb of Kiyapo in 1778. His father was originally from Kalamyanes and his mother from Paombong. He graduated from Letran with a degree in philosophy and entered the Seminary of San Carlos, continuing his studies in philosophy and theology until he earned his doctorate. He was a deacon when he obtained a professorship in San Jose College. Hardly ordained a presbyter, he was given a sinecure in the Manila Cathedral. (This means he was a prebend with a stipend from the Cathedral). When the position for magistrate-canon became vacant, Father Garcia applied for and won it over Fr. Pedro Pelaez.

According to his biographer, Miguel Zaragoza, Father Garcia was also appointed to the royal order of cantors. For 27 years, he served as rector of San Jose College, starting his tenure when the school was in a critical condition. Due to his abilities as administrator, he was able to successfully improve its situation.

Both the church and the state honored Father Garcia. He was made a knight of Isabela la Catolica and honorary auditor and minister of the Supreme Tribunal as well as the Tribunal de Rota. The church, on the other hand, aside from appointing him to vital positions, also named him a judge in the Synod of the Archbishopric of Manila and the delegate to the Diocese of Cebu. He was offered the bishopric of Cebu but declined due to his failing eyesight and health although there are portraits of Father Garcia with a miter resting on a table beside him. (No doubt blown to dust from the liberation bombs).

One of Father Garcia's most amazing gifts was his prodigious memory. For instance, he knew the Bible by heart so that if someone read a paragraph from any page, he could recite by memory the successive verses. Despite being nearly blind, he continued to celebrate Mass every day by having a chaplain read the Mass for the day and repeating the prayers without mistake. Again with his breviary he would have someone read the office for the day in his house and later he would join the choir praying and singing with the rest, reciting his lectures from memory without mistake.

A friend of his recounts how in 1860 there was a new office to be sung for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Father Garcia had to sing the eighth lesson in the choir for the solemn matins officiated by the Archbishop, Sr. Meliton Martinez. A friend read it to him beforehand and watched the venerable blind priest sing the lesson without any problem.

Father Garcia rendered invaluable service as rector and professor at San Jose College, where another Father Garcia—Vicente—was also a light of the Filipino clergy. (Had we any interest, it would be entertaining to discover if any documents exist regarding Father Garcia's opinion of Gomburza). Other graduates were Fr. Agustin Mendoza, lawyer Jose Camacho of Baliwag who achieved renown during the mid-19th century, Fr. Mariano Sta. Ana Marcial, Paciano Rizal Mercado, Marcelo del Pilar and many others.

Father Garcia was chaplain and director of the Beaterio of the Company of Jesus, a post he occupied until his death on Jan. 22, 1871 at the age of 92. He was in command of his faculties despite his age. The story is told that moments before he died he advised the priest holding his hands to be anointed in the Sacrament of Extreme Unction not to do it on the palm because these had already been anointed when he was ordained a priest.

Of course, it's possible that neither of these priests was a native Filipino, as Jaime de Veyra and Mariano Ponce claimed in their "Efemeridas Filipinas" (1912). Fr. Jose Arcilla, S.J. and others believe that it was only much later that Filipinos were accepted by the religious orders and ordained. These men may have been *insulares*, i.e. born in the Philippines but of Spanish parents. However, since there is little money to be earned in scholarship and research, chances are we'll never know.

Empowerment

Karina Torralba

YOUNGBLOOD

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

"YOUR president's impeachment trial has been suspended."

It was with much surprise and trepidation that I received this news from my research instructor. I had just flown into Albany, New York, the night before, after a 24-hour trip from Manila. When I left home on Jan. 16, the impeachment trial of President Estrada was in full swing. I knew trouble would be coming after Feb. 12 when Estrada would be acquitted by the Senate as expected. Never in my dreams did I imagine it would come this early.

For the next 72 hours or so, I followed the Philippine Daily Inquirer online and also linked up with dzBB and GMA News. I looked up the Reuters news service and the BBC news. I was even waking up at 6 a.m. just to catch the world news on CNN. Indeed, the world was watching the Philippines. Nes about the Philippines was even being given a higher priority than the inauguration of US President George W. Bush.

As People Power II unfolded, I cried with pride as I saw pictures of people protesting on the streets like they did in 1986. The turning point came when the military decided to withdraw its support from Estrada. The crisis finally came to an end when Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her gray suit, was sworn in as President, and the former president took the barge on murky waters of the Pasig River.

It is hard to think that this is the end though. A common refrain among Filipinos interviewed by the media is that they are happy and that they wish the Macapagal administration will correct the wrongs of the Estrada administration.

Yet, I ask myself, why did we ever end up having a People Power II? If one would take a closer look, many of the major the players during the Estrada administration were already there during the Marcos regime. Consider these names: Tatad, Enrile, Ople. Unity and reconciliation seemed to be the theme of the administration of President Aquino. But what ever happened to justice? Our mistake in the past and up to the present is that we let the Marcos family and their cronies get away scot-free. Now they are back, but they are not behind bars. Our fault lay in being complacent and not demanding retribution. We concentrated on getting the economy back on its feet, forgetting that our moral fiber was in decay. We prayed our rosaries and went to church every Sunday, and forgot to practice what we preached, except forgiveness. We blamed traditional politicians for turning our lives into a mess and yet we ourselves have not changed our ways.

I do hope we do not continue to commit the same mistakes. The trial of Estrada is not only his trial, it is the trial of the Filipino as well.

I was born in 1972, and I would be called a martial law baby. My political awakening came on Aug. 21, 1983 when our maid rushed out of my parents' bedroom where the television was on. I asked her what the matter was and all she could say as tears streamed down her face was: "*Pinatay siya*!" At the age of 11, I had no idea who Ninoy Aquino was.

I was struck by what my mother said shortly before I left for the United States. Despite all that has happened, she said, nothing has really changed. We are still basically facing the same problems that we had 20 or 30 years ago.

I try to drive away the thought that 15 years down the road there will be a People Power III or maybe even a violent version of people power. If we can impeach a president now, we surely can impeach ourselves once more by forgetting that the power we boast about to the world is in each and every one of us every minute and every second of each day. Empowerment does not merely come from four days of exercising people power. It means being vigilant and not letting ourselves be deceived and lulled into a false sense of security.

I salute all the activists who, for the past few months, were brave enough to march in streets, punch the air with their fists and cry out their frustrations so that others who had become deaf might listen. Empowerment also means educating ourselves, and not just inside the classroom but within society itself. Look around and smell the stinking air. Now is the time to shovel that mound of trash in the street and put it in a proper receptacle. I mean that literally and figuratively.

Regardless of who the president is, we have our work cut out for us.

Karina Torralba, 29, is a resident in internal medicine at Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown, New York.

This is not a movie

Moe Calseron

I WAS in grade 4 when the Filipinos massed in the streets to oust a strongman. I could barely understand what was happening then, but I kept watching television and asking questions from my parents and brother, who was an activist. I remember that my parents moved the whole family to our nearly finished house in faraway Tandang Sora from Roosevelt Avenue where we were renting an apartment. I was 10 years old, the youngest of six siblings, while our eldest was 20 years of age.

Even then I could understand why our parents were so protective and afraid since we were all still in school. They never went to Edsa and they discouraged all of us children from joining rallies.

Fifteen years later, Edsa was again filled with people who wanted to know the truth and demanded that another president step down from office. The non-opening of the envelope during the impeachment trial moved the Filipino people to unite and march in the streets to make their voices heard.

This time I knew exactly what was happening. I had closely followed the impeachment trial. So I took part in Edsa. I rallied every night starting Wednesday, Jan. 18, until Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as President on Jan. 20.

A lot of things have changed since the first Edsa Revolution. I am now a part of the work force and I am very much aware and concerned about what's happening to our government.

I texted my mom on my way to Edsa to inform her I would be part of people power. I didn't even bother to ask her permission. I had to make my voice heard. I knew my presence would count because it was critical to have a huge crowd there. More importantly, I had a good cause to fight for.

I never felt fear or apprehension. I was optimistic that the entire nation acting as one could topple a corrupt government led by incompetents who had no conscience.

If 15 years ago, I was concerned about whether we had classes or not, today I am concerned about the taxes deducted from my hard-earned salary being spent on luxuries, mansions, mistresses and illegal activities by some people who pretend to rule the nation.

I despise the 11 senators who voted to hide the truth. Shame on them all. I wonder if they can sleep well at night.

Times like this bring out the best in us. But it is also the season of "*balimbings*." I congratulate those who crossed over to join the people at Edsa. I commend them for their bravery. I just hope that they did it in all sincerity and not to advance their own interests. But I'll keep watch because I still am not convinced about the purity of their motives.

The fight is not yet over. It is just starting. Let's all learn from history. I don't want to go back to Edsa with kids at some future time. Please let's not make a sequel. *Hindi ito pelikula. Totoong buhay ito. Kinabukasan nating lahat!*

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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Non-violence brings out results that last

"START your revolution! Bring out your guns and *sundangs*!"

When I heard these words sarcastically addressed to the peaceful and prayerful ralliers at Edsa Shrine by an elderly senator, I could not help but recall that the same senator would not have been alive today if he had not been shielded by the warm bodies of Christians and Muslims who went to Edsa in 1986 in answer to a call by Jaime Cardinal Sin. His guns would not have saved him from the tanks, helicopter gunships and the battalions of Gen. Fabian Ver if the people, armed only with rosaries, religious images and prayers, were not there to protect him.

His words also reminded me of Josef Stalin who said, "How many battalions has the Pope?" Stalin and Communist Russia are gone now, but we still have the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church.

Causes carried out and won through peaceful non-violent means are those that last. Mahatma Gandhi won the independence of India from the British by peaceful actions. Martin Luther King started the fight for the rights of the colored people in the United States and though he was assassinated, his cause prevailed. Nelson Mandela fought against apartheid in South Africa through peaceful means and though he was imprisoned for more than 15 years, he finally became president of South Africa in an election where both white and colored people voted. The Filipino people, working peacefully for a nation guided by moral principles and relying on the divine will of our heavenly Father, will eventually have a government free of graft and corruption run by morally upright people who put God and country before their own selfish interests.

Now that we have finally kicked out of office an immoral and corrupt president, we should improve our political system continuously. Our people, both rich and poor, should vote into office leaders who are capable and morally upright and who will put the nation's interest before their own. We should not elect people because of personal relationships or in exchange for personal or group benefits, but for his suitability for the position and for the benefit of the greater number.

Bayan Muna, a perceived leftist group, and other groups espousing other causes should be allowed to present peacefully their ideas for it is in the amalgamation of diverse ideas that we may find the best system for us. Let us help the marginalized people who are enslaved by the politics of patronage and dole outs so that they can become politically free and not be victims of propaganda and cash handouts.

Let us thank God for again answering our prayers. Let us pray that He will heal our country and bring reconciliation after justice is rendered to the guilty.—**VIRGILIO C. ANICETO SR., Canlubang, Laguna**

The best Mindanaoan for the job

THE RECENT political upheaval called Edsa Dos has caused major changes in the national leadership. Undoubtedly, along with these changes there will be a disruption of the national programs of the deposed administration as the new leadership steers its own course.

Mindanaoans view these developments with real apprehension lest the socio-economic gains made by the Estrada administration be wasted. It cannot be denied that under the Estrada administration, Mindanao was the recipient of unprecedented material support and assistance in keeping with the plan to make Mindanao the new industrial center and food basket of the country. Mindanaoans fear that the derailment of these programs will bring Mindanao back to square one—shackled by poverty, hampered by social divisiveness and facing the continuing problem of how to achieve genuine peace and prosperity.

We appeal to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to sustain and to support the present gains in Mindanao. With her wide exposure to the endemic problems of Mindanao, I am confident that she will use her power and authority to correct them.

To make these tasks easier, she must appoint a true Mindanaoan as her vice president, someone who knows and feels the true needs and problems of Mindanaoans. For this reason, Mindanaoans have set aside partisan politics and unanimously recommend Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Pimentel is the best Mindanaoan for the job.

Mindanao opposition leaders have expressed their readiness to support and to assist the Macapagal administration particularly in its desire for the immediate resumption of the Mindanao peace talks. Indeed this must be a priority agenda because peace in Mindanao is the springboard to political stability and economic prosperity in our country.

Meanwhile, I call on the opposition leaders in Misamis Oriental to stop persecuting Gov. Antonio Calingin purely for political ends. May I remind these politicians that their sinister plan to oust Calingin with their tramped-up charges will not prosper. I suggest that they reserve their best political propaganda for the coming elections and let the people decide who their rightful leaders will be.—**VICENTE Y. EMANO, mayor, Cagayan de Oro City**

Panawagan ng Kabataan
kay Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Sigaw ng Kabataan ang nangibabaw sa tagumpay ng EDSA.
Tagumpay laban sa pagkitil ng katotohanan.
Tagumpay laban sa isang pamahalaang tinalikuran ang pananagutan sa mamamayan.
Tagumpay na inaasahan ng sambayanan na magiging hudyat ng tunay na pagbabago.

Nananawagan kami sa bagong Pangulo na tanggapin ang hamon ng kabataan at sambayanan:

Ipaglaban ang katarungan para sa bayan.
Walang pagkakaisa kung walang hustisya.
Ipagpatuloy ang mga kasong plunder laban kay dating Pangulong Estrada
at bawiin ang mga ninakaw na pera ng bayan.

Buhayin ang integridad sa pamahalaan.
Itaguyod ang pamahalaang nilalahukan ng at naninindigan para sa mamamayan.
Huwag gawing pambayad utang-pulitika ang mga posisyon sa gobyerno.

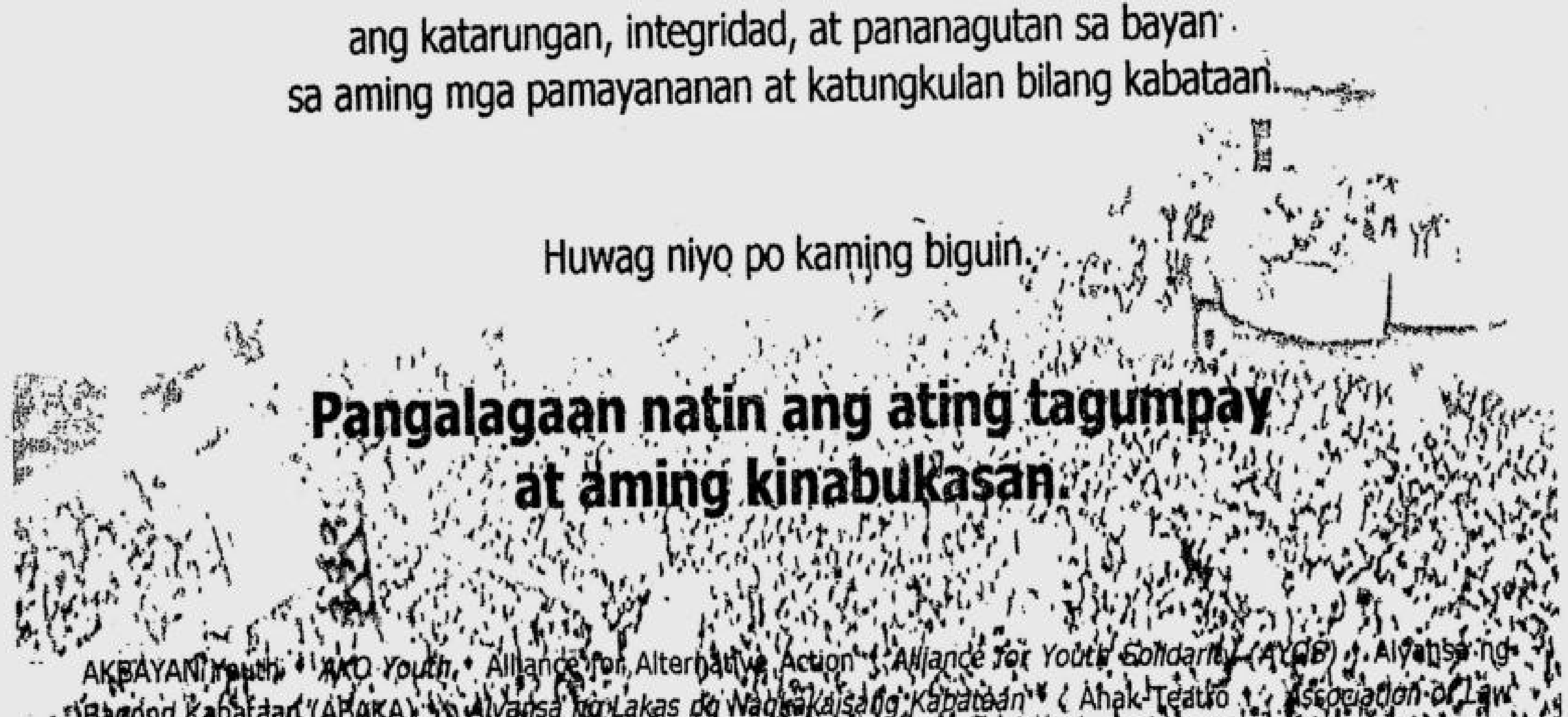
Simulan ang tunay na repormang pampulitika.
Ang pananagutan at pagkiling ay sa taong bayan lamang.

Isasabuhay rin namin
ang katarungan, integridad, at pananagutan sa bayan
sa aming mga pamayananan at katungkulan bilang kabataan.

Huwag niyo po kaming biguin.

**Pangalagaan natin ang ating tagumpay
at aming kinabukasan.**

AKBAYAN Youth • *AKO Youth* • Alliance for Alternative Action • *Alliance for Youth Solidarity (AYOS)* • Alyansa ng Bagong Kabataan (ABAKA) • *Alyansa ng Lakas ng Nagkakaisang Kabataan* • Anak-Teatro • *Association of Law Students of the Philippines (ALSP)* • Assumption College Student Council • *Ayala Young Leaders Congress '99* • Ayala Young Leaders Congress 2000 • *BISIG Youth* • CASA BEEL Film Guild of UST • *Coalition for Students Advancement (COSTA) – Zamboanga* • Communication Arts Students' Association of UST • *Delta Lambda Sigma Sorority – UPLB* • Democratic Students Union (DSU) – Davao City • *Demokratiko Sosyalistang Kabataan ng Pilipinas (DSKP)* • Far Eastern University Central Student Council • *Filding Christian-Muslim Democratic Movement (FCMDM) Youth* • Kabataan Para Sa Pagbabago • *KATINIG Youth* • Marinduque State College Student Council • *Miriam College Student Council* • Movement for the Advancement of Student Power (MASA) • *PAKISAMA Youth* • PANATA AKMA • *PANDAYAN Youth* • Philippine Law Students Alliance for National Affairs (PLAN) • *PIGLAS Youth* • PINTIG-PUP • *Samakami Youth Organization (SYO)* – Cotabato City • Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral ng Ateneo • *St. Scholastica's College Student Council* • Santugon sa Tawag ng Panahon • *Sigma Rho Fraternity – UPLB* • Student Council Alliance of the Philippines (SCAP) • *Supreme Law Council of Siliman* • Union of Catholic Student Councils (UCSC) • *University of Asia & the Pacific Student Council* • UE Tugon Student Alliance • *UP Law Student Government* • Young Upbeat Professionals for Peace (YUPPEACE) • *Youth Christian Life Community (YCLC)* • Youth for Christ (YFC) – Ateneo • *Youth Movement for Cause (YMC) – Iligan City* • Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly (YSDA)



Taming the cellphone

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

NEXT time you're in the Monumento area, look up to the Katipuneros and imagine them wielding cellphones instead of bolos. That was what came to my mind as Rep. Roilo Golez described, on the TV show "Jullie," the "Kangkong Brigade" that mobilized people power through text messages.

But I think we've had enough now of eulogizing the cellphone. Let's get real now and look at a less heroic side to this technology, especially the way it impacts on young people.

Two years ago, when I was first assigned to handle our anthropology field school, I marveled at the fact that half of my 30 students had cellphones. Since UP couldn't (and still can't) afford to support an assistant for the field school, I found the cellphone heaven-sent, a way to help keep track of my students as they were deployed out in the field.

This year, I'm handling another 30 students, of whom 26 have cellphones, but I'm not quite as enthusiastic about the phones. Early in the semester, I asked students how much of a subsidy they needed for their field board and lodging (which I estimated to cost about P7,000). Nearly all the students said they would need financial assistance. I was flabbergasted, knowing that so many of them had cellphones, some of which were quite expensive models.

I'm afraid the cellphone craze has distorted people's sense of priorities. It's gotten to the point where it's not enough to have a cellphone but that it has to be one of the newest, most expensive brands and never mind if you splurge on the phone unit and accessories, and can't afford to refill the prepaid accounts, or pay for school expenses.

The cellphone carriers offer all kinds of services now, from traffic updates to flight schedules, but I wonder about the ones they use to lure the youth.

It was Margie Holmes who called my attention to one of the Smart television ads showing teenagers moving from movie houses to restaurants to discos based on the information they retrieve from cellphones. I finally saw the ad myself and was appalled. No, these aren't your 21st century Katipuneros texting people to go to Edsa; what we have instead is a herd of young people prodded along by a cellphone riding a horse shouting out: "Buy! Buy! Spend! Spend!"

Worried about cellphone radiation and possible brain damage? I'd be more concerned about the dumbing effects of some of these cellphone gimmicks. At one point in the Smart ad, one of the girls squeals in delight about being able to feed her cellphone pet, available on both Globe and Smart. I checked out the Globe cellphone pet and found it was even worse than the Tamagochi fad a few years back. There isn't even a screen image, just messages telling you to "feed" or "pet" the creature and each time you do that, through a text message, you get charged P2. *Nakakabobo.*

Much has been said, too, about how *txtng wreks havoc on spelng n gramer, Englsh or Plpno.* I worry more about how the cellphones, working in tandem with mindless computer games and Internet chat rooms, are eroding young people's ability to communicate in the real world, in real time. A few months back, one of the carriers (I can't remember which) tried to get young people to participate in an Internet chatting, via the cellphone. Here, you text your message into an Internet chat room, wait for a reply and then text back. I thought that was another rip-off. Considering the space limitations of texting, you end up spending a bundle for saying nothing at all.

I know some parents think the cellphones help them keep track of their children. I'd be careful about that assumption. A cellphone vests your kids with virtual existence. They can call you and reassure you they're okay and behaved, even if they're not, and you'll never know because all you have is your child's mobile, and I mean mobile, phone number.

Cellphones tempt adults as well to retreat into their own cocoons. Having the cellphone makes it easier to stay away from the house just a few more hours—anyway, the kids have TV, the computer and their cellphones. In effect, too, when we tell young people, "Just text me," we're also limiting the interaction that they're entitled to, telling them to summarize what's on their minds in 160 characters or less.

The cellphones' shortcomings do offer us opportunities to help young (and not so young) people to be more critical about advertising and marketing campaigns. For example, how important is it to have a built-in FM radio in your cellphone? Help them to budget their calls and use of cellphone services: Do you really need to call *yaya* to prepare *merienda* because you're on your way home, and do you really need to retrieve your horoscope?

Talk about what a cellphone can, and can't do. Sure it's great sharing text jokes, but there's something about not seeing a person laugh in response. Maybe they aren't even laughing. A friend recently asked me if there was a way to block off certain people who don't seem to have anything better to do than forward jokes all day.

Cellphones can be useful but if we don't tame this technology, it's going to run, and ruin, our lives. Do just one more mental exercise: Imagine your cellphone with a leash attached to a collar. Now imagine that collar around your neck.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.org

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Pro-Wahid mobs burn offices

JAKARTA—Political tensions in Indonesia escalated Monday when thousands of supporters of President Abdurrahman Wahid burned two offices of the former ruling party in protest against parliament's attempts to oust him from power.

The attacks, both in the head of state's home province, happened just hours before legislators gave police and the attorney general a report that allegedly links Wahid with two corruption scandals and were the basis of formal parliamentary censure last week that could also lead to his impeachment.

Wahid has refused to quit and has denied any wrongdoing in the multimillion-dollar affairs that have shaken his 15-month old administration.

Police said a pro-Wahid mob of about 10,000 set fire to branch offices of the Golkar Party in the neighboring towns of Situbondo and Asembagus in East Java.

Sgt. Bagus Riyadi said many in the crowd carried sickles and daggers. There were no reports of injuries.

Police were outnumbered by the demonstrators who cut down trees and blocked roads, he said.

Also, in the second largest city of Surabaya about 10,000 pro-Wahid protesters marched on the local Golkar office.

In Jakarta, parliamentary speaker Akbar Tandjung—who is Golkar's national chair—said other pro-Wahid crowds had also threatened to attack his party's offices elsewhere in the province.

"Golkar's office in Situbondo was burned to the ground by a group calling themselves (Wahid's) Defenders Front," Tandjung said.

On Sunday, dozens of pro-Wahid demonstrators stoned Golkar's offices in the town of Pasaruan, also in East Java, about 500 km east of Jakarta.

The attacks came despite calls for calm by Wahid.

"I know that many people are angry, but anger cannot solve the problem," Wahid said, as cited by Kompas daily. Matori Abdul Djalil, the head of Wahid's National Awakening Party, said the president repeated this call on Monday in talks at the state palace in Jakarta.

There have been growing calls on Wahid to quit.

On Monday his Justice Minister Yusril Mahendra urged the head of state to step aside temporarily while legal and parliamentary inquiries into the scandals continue.

East Java is the stronghold of the 30 million-member Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia's largest Muslim organization, which Wahid headed until he became president in 1999.

Anger against Golkar has risen since it and other parties in the 500-member parliament censured Wahid on Thursday for his alleged involvement in two corruption scandals. The move against Wahid could lead to his eventual impeachment. *AP*

SURVIVORS of India's worst earthquake in 50 years place their hands into one of several cracks in the ground near the epicenter of the quake in a salt marsh near Dhori village, 20 km from Bhuj in the western state of Gujarat, Feb. 4. REUTERS

Agencies try to prevent mass exodus in quake zone

AHMADABAD, India—Aid agencies rushed on Monday to get tons of tents and plastic sheets to the more than half-million people left homeless by India's killer earthquake, hoping to avert a massive exodus from the desert region.

Authorities began ambitious plans to relocate thousands of people from devastated villages to new settlements, selecting sites and lining up the materials and equipment needed for the massive project.

But first, officials were urging quick action to stop millions in the zone devastated by the Jan. 26 quake in western India from searching for food and shelter in other parts of the country, straining support systems elsewhere.

"Immediate relief is required in the form of tents and plastic sheets, or else people will begin to flee the region," said P.K. Lahiri, the principal secretary to Gujarat's chief minister, the state's top elected official.

The death toll from the 7.9-magnitude quake was estimated at over 16,000, and the number was expected to rise on Monday as demolition crews began clearing away the rubble of larger apartment complexes and uncovering more dead.

International and domestic aid was piling up. Authorities struggled to pump relief to remote areas, but there was criticism that people close to the distribution centers and on the main road routes were getting most of the aid, while millions of others in far-flung areas had not been reached.

The scope of the disaster was unnerving. Officials estimate the death toll could hit 35,000, and there are more than 600,000 homeless who lack food, clothing or sanitation. The injured numbered 66,758, Gujarat state officials said.

Respiratory infections are spreading among survivors, but health officials said there are no indications yet of an epidemic.

Massive communal kitchens have sprouted up around the quake zone.

In Ahmadabad on Monday morning, 500 people gathered at a kitchen for breakfast. Women sat on the floor, making fried bread while cooks stirred pots of potato and vegetables. *AP*

China revs up attack on sect

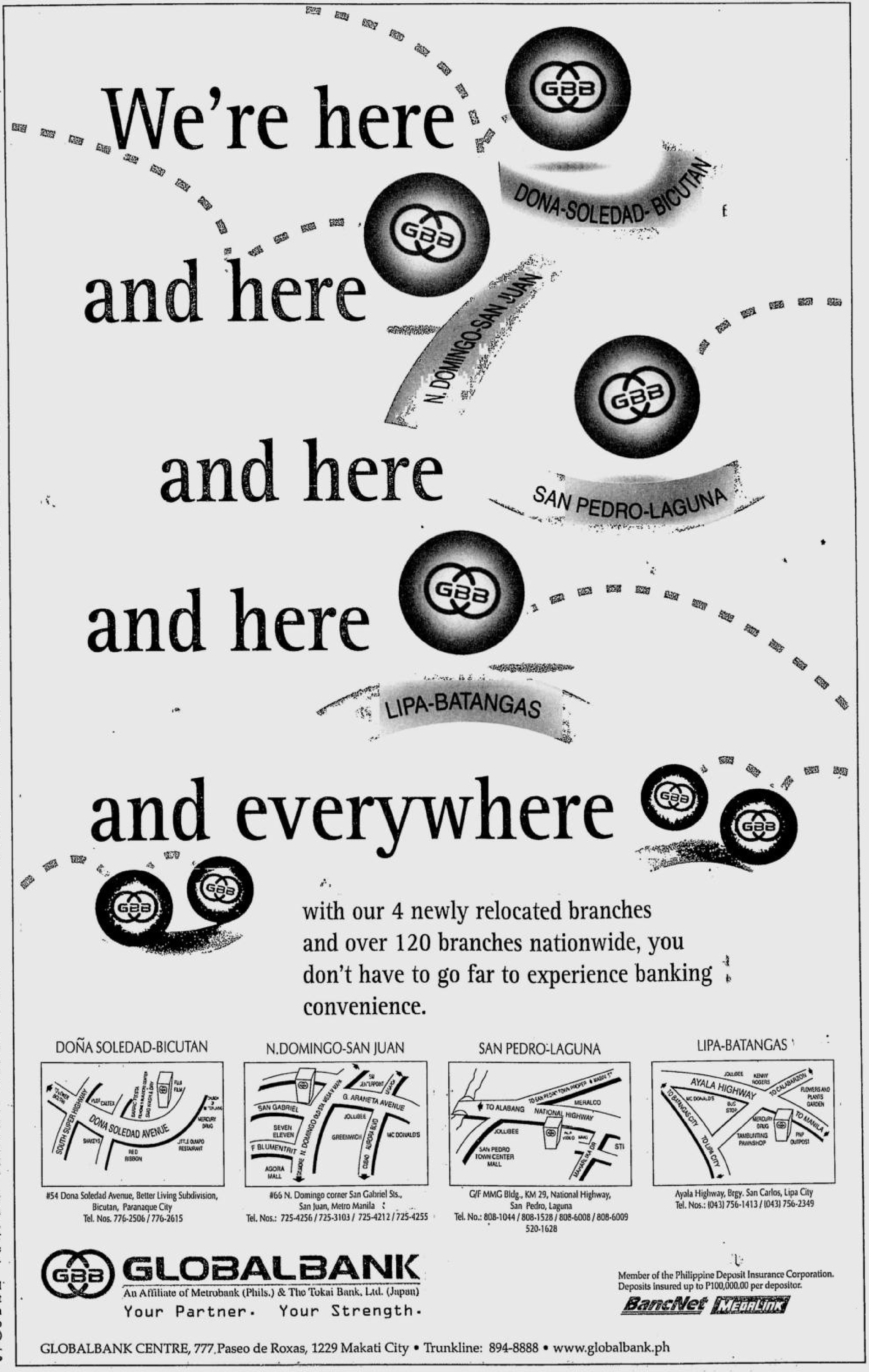
BEIJING—China's government is seizing on the dramatic suicide attempt by purported members of the Falun Gong sect to try to sway a public that has stood on the sidelines during the 18-month-long crackdown on the banned group.

State media, the only kind there is in China, have intensified attacks on Falun Gong. Scholars are denouncing it in a symposium-like forum touring Beijing. Schools have been ordered to hold classes criticizing it once the Lunar New Year vacation ends this month.

"Blood Debts Old and New Will be Thoroughly Reckoned," the People's Daily, the ruling Communist Party's newspaper, blared in a typical headline. China Central Television has shown people identified as ordinary citizens expressing hatred and revulsion for the sect and its US-based founder, Li Hongzhi.

Touching off the campaign was the attempt by seven people to burn themselves on Tiananmen Square on Jan. 23, eve of the Lunar New Year, China's biggest holiday. Kept out of state media for a week, the group suicide attempt—which left one dead and four injured—got its first airing last Tuesday with reports scripted for maximum impact.

Gruesome footage showed the people bathed in flames in what media described as an attempt "to ascend to heaven." The reports dwelled on one of the injured, 12-year-old Liu Siying, who lies in a Beijing hospital with burns over 40 percent of her body. Her mother died in the suicide attempt. *AP*



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Top cleric urges Muslims in Israel to boycott polls

JERUSALEM—The top Islamic cleric in Jerusalem has weighed in with harsh words for both candidates in the race for Israel's prime minister—and urged Muslims who are Israeli citizens not to vote for either one.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak faces hawkish Ariel Sharon at the polls on Tuesday in a contest Sharon is heavily favored to win.

Sheik Ikrema Sabri, who is the mufti, or chief Islamic cleric, said neither candidate deserved backing.

"Why support Barak? What has he done?" Sabri said of the prime minister. Of Barak's opponent, he said: "I would love Sharon to win—to reveal to everyone what Zionism is all about."

The votes of Israel's more than 1 million Arab citizens—the vast majority of whom are Muslims-are considered crucial for Barak. On Sunday, Israel Radio reported that Sabri had said it was against Islam for a Muslim to vote for a Jew.

"I didn't say that, but I'm not afraid to say something like that," Sabri said later Sunday. "I would say the same thing."

He predicted Arab citizens of Israel would refuse to support Barak "because he killed 13 without any reason"—referring to the deaths in October of 13 Israeli Arabs shot by Israeli police as rioting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip spilled over into Arab communities inside Israel.

Without the Arab vote, which makes up 18 percent of the electorate, Barak cannot win the election, analysts say.

The mufti also repeated his contention—inflammatory to Israelis—that Jews have no religious tie to the disputed hilltop compound in Jerusalem's Old City sacred to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary. Jews revere it as the site of their biblical Temples, the only remnant of which—the retaining wall known as the Western Wall—is the holiest place in Judaism.

"The claim of the Jews is an empty one," Sabri said in the interview at his home just outside Jerusalem.

The compound is central to the dispute between the two sides. Palestinians have day-to-day control of the hilltop, but want full sovereignty over it. Israel, which annexed the Old City and other parts of Jerusalem, which it captured in 1967, has insisted it will not cede complete control of the mount to the Palestinians. *AP*

UNDER HOUSE ARREST REUTERS

Surrounded by his bodyguards and unidentified family members, former Chile leader Augusto Pinochet (right) walks to his car after attending Sunday Mass in his coastal estate in Bucalemu, 130 km southwest of the capital Santiago, Feb. 4. Judge Juan Guzman placed Pinochet under house arrest for alleged human rights abuses during his 1973-1990 rule.

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Commemorating Emilio Aguinaldo's 37th Death Anniversary February 6, 1964

Banker's suicide jolts boom-to-bust lifestyle of Greeks

PIRGOS, Greece—He settled his affairs in the meticulous manner befitting a banker.

He straightened up his apartment, phoned his mother to come pay a visit, and left her a farewell note with detailed plans for his funeral and burial. Then Anastasios Maniatis laced a glass of milk with Lanate, a farm pesticide.

"I am also a victim of the stock exchange," said the note found alongside his body Jan. 23—a day before the Athens Stock Exchange hit the lowest point in its 16-month slump.

MANIATIS

The suicide of the 41-year-old bank manager was something Greeks could instantly relate with the dizzying course of his life in the past two years: the promise of sudden wealth, a mad frenzy to buy shares, the gloom when it all crumbled.

In life, Maniatis was just another woeful story from the boom-to-bust jolt that has become commonplace in stock markets the world over, especially the immature ones. In death, he was eulogized as a martyr of the reckless greed that has left many Greeks trapped in the wreckage of an exchange that has lost about half its value since September 1999.

Since his suicide, two more Greeks mired in debt have tried to take their lives—a civil servant who attempted to hang himself and a bank teller who shot himself.

Maniatis' death broke through a wall of pride that has kept many Greeks quiet about losses on the exchange. It also forced them to look harder at their nation's struggle to find its bearings in competitive and consumer-driven times.

"We were all expecting a suicide, but no one thought it would be him," said Athanasios Skordalis, head of the Chamber of Commerce in Pirgos, a seaside town of 40,000 people about 200 miles southwest of Athens.

The suicide repeatedly came up as finance minister Yannos Papandoniou fended off a parliament censure motion Friday. Opposition lawmakers accused his Socialist government of letting the exchange become a free-for-all in 1999 as a way to curry political support.

After the vote, the exchange's general index plummeted 2.8 percent to close at 3,156. Its high was 6,355.04 on Sept. 17, 1999.

"Some people must be punished," insisted Miltiades Evert of the opposition New Democracy party.

But not too long ago, Greeks were emptying savings accounts, selling property, borrowing, taking what they could for livestock and tractors. Much of the money went into high-risk new companies with no business experience, definite capital strategies or any real value. A company offering satellite TV to households turned out to have neither dishes nor programming.

Yet some listings tripled in value week after week in mid-1999. "A Roman orgy," said broker Vasillis Hadjiilias. "It was a party that no one was allowed to break up."

The crash left many people with nearly worthless stock and unable to pay back loans.

It is believed Maniatis manipulated bank funds to try to cover some of the losses. An audit at his branch revealed missing funds, media reports said. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Fasting Indians 'ready to die'

QUITO—Forty-one Indians, all lying on mattresses, moved into their second day on hunger strike Sunday, adamant they will not cease their fast until the Ecuadoran government meets their request to back down on its tough economic measures. "I'm prepared to give my life," says Ruth Penafiel, one of only two female hunger strikers in the group, which launched the protest after President Gustavo Noboa announced a state of emergency late Friday. Her companions on hunger strike, spread out in a corridor on the first floor of the Salesian Polytechnic University here quietly nod their assent. "We're here to the end, to victory," says Euclides Collaguazo, 30, who is from Pichincha near Quito. *AFP*

London's Underground on strike

LONDON—Hundreds of thousands of London commuters are facing travel chaos as they go to work Monday after drivers on the Underground, the capital's aging subway system, launched a 24-hour strike to protest government plans for partial privatization of the system. The transport union Aslef, which represents 60 percent of the drivers, argues that the government plans would threaten passenger safety. They point to the legacy of the previous Conservative government's privatization of the national rail network between 1994 and 1996, which has come in for fierce criticism in the wake of a series of fatal rail crashes. The strike, which began at 5:30 p.m. Sunday and which will finish in peak hour late Monday, comes despite what appears to have been a government climbdown Friday over its plans to modernize the Underground. *AFP*

Columbians reject rebel zone

BOGOTA—Thousands of Colombians rejected the creation of a second guerrilla stronghold during a protest Sunday in what would be the main town inside the controversial enclave in northern Colombia. The protest came as the government was close to granting a 4,760-sq. km. territory to the leftist National Liberation Army, or ELN. The guerrilla Army has demanded the demilitarized zone as an exchange for peace talks with the government. During the peaceful demonstration on Sunday, some 12,000 people filled the streets of San Pablo to oppose the plan, said the town's mayor, Danuil Macera, on Radionet radio station. Local media reports put the number at 25,000. *AP*

3 nabbed in Riyadh attacks

RIYADH—Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz on Sunday announced the arrest of three western men—one British, a Canadian and a Belgian—for two anti-British attacks in November in Riyadh. "The security services have arrested those responsible for the explosions carried out in Riyadh in November. One is British, one Canadian and one Belgian," he said in a statement reported by the SPA agency. On Nov. 17, Briton Christopher Rodway, 47, was killed and his wife, Jane, 50, was slightly injured when their car was blown up, in what police say appeared to be a booby trap, in central Riyadh. Less than a week later, two Britons and an Irish woman were wounded, two just slightly, when their car exploded Nov. 22 in Riyadh. "The three people behind the explosions have admitted" the actions, according to the statement which carried the confessions and names of the three people in Arabic. *AFP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

547 lose jobs in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment said 32 firms retrenched workers while six others closed shop here last year, resulting in 547 jobless workers. In 1999, 642 workers were retrenched, the department said. The companies that shut down last year included Western Mining Corp., BPI-Family Bank, Nautica Canning Corp., the ARC Loans and Credit Corp., the Mindanao Cotton Development Corp. and Discovery Haulers. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Chemicals seized

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Policemen seized 65 kilos of explosive chemicals inside a parked truck along the national highway in Barangay Sta. Rita here Thursday night. Policemen found the truck loaded with a box of about 25 kilos of explosive gel, a sack with 40 kilos of ammonium nitrate and two rolls of ignition cords. Police arrested driver Garlino Sundayo of Paombong town and charged him with illegal possession of explosive chemicals and violation of the Commission on Elections gun ban. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Farmers get irrigation

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Anticipating damages from the El Niño phenomenon in Cagayan Valley, the Department of Agriculture here has provided farmers with small-scale irrigation projects, impounding dams and shallow tube wells worth P243 million. Gumersindo Lasam, DA regional director, said shallow wells and impounding dams would provide irrigation water to more than 3,300 hectares of farms in Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya that are expected to be hit by the drought this year. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 22°	Baguio HI 25° Lo 14°	Tuguegarao HI 32° Lo 21°
Laoag HI 32° Lo 21°	Clark Zone HI 31° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi HI 31° Lo 25°	Bacolod HI 31° Lo 23°	Roxas HI 31° Lo 26°
Cebu HI 31° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 31° Lo 25°	Gen. Santos HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga HI 31° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro HI 32° Lo 23°	Davao HI 31° Lo 23°

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Mercury poisons 'camote' tops at Pinatubo shelter

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Government doctors on Friday advised the Philippine Task Force for Hazardous Waste to warn people whom the Mt. Pinatubo eruption forced to resettle in an evacuation center in Clark not to eat *camote* (sweet potato) tops grown in the area because these were "positive for mercury."

Poisoning from mercury, a neurotoxin (meaning it affects the nervous system) has been found to cause personality changes, nervousness, trembling and even dementia.

Mercury poisoning can also damage the kidneys, cause skin allergy and discoloration of the eyes and endanger the lives of pregnant women and infants.

Dr. Rio Magpantay, head of the epidemiological section of the Department of Health Central Luzon office, also advised the task force to "immediately remove all families" from the Clark Air Base Command (Cabcom) evacuation center.

"The area is potentially contaminated," Magpantay said as task force representatives from various government departments briefly debated over short-term health measures for residents living in sites suspected to be contaminated with toxic wastes.

Magpantay issued the advice after Dr. Cesar Calalang briefed task force members, People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup representatives and leaders of communities where toxic waste victims live, on the findings of his team based on a preliminary health study at the Cabcom.

There are still 75 families living at the Cabcom, the INQUIRER learned.

The center used to house some 35,000 families for several years after the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption. In 1999, the Mount Pinatubo Commission began transferring families to resettlement sites to prevent their exposure to hazardous wastes left by the United States 13th Air Force Wing.

Calalang said soil samples taken in the Cabcom area showed traces of nitrate, lead and mercury.

Samples of *camote* tops were found to have average mercury contents of 0.02 microgram per gram.

While this mercury level was low, Calalang said eating the *camote* tops frequently led to "chronic results" especially on people who were suffering from poor nutrition.

Almost 90 percent of 32 people covered by the study lived below the poverty level and were more likely to be ill, he said.

At the Cabcom, Calalang's team concluded that 40 pregnant women had high lead levels in their blood.

Eight of them had a history of spontaneous abortion during their stay in the area, the findings showed.

Eight children displayed stunted growth while seven children and 13 adults had anemia.

Pete Raymond Delfin, assistant director of the Department of Foreign Affairs' United States division, said the MPC would need to revive a team that would oversee the closure of Cabcom.

The Department of Health has transferred to the University of the Philippines' National Poisons Control and Information Service at least P2 million in funds for the detoxification of former and current Cabcom residents.

Ferrous sulfate tablets, which reduce high lead levels in blood, would be distributed to residents, according to Dr. Desiree Narvaez of the DOH.

16-year-old, another reb suspect tortured

DAVAO CITY—A 16-year-old boy and a man suspected of being members of the New People's Army (NPA) were allegedly tortured by soldiers who arrested them Monday last week in Monkayo town, Compostela Valley, the human rights group Karapatan claimed on Saturday.

Karapatan reported that the boy and Nestor Davin were hog-tied and kept in a pigpen-like wooden cage in a detachment in Barangay Banlag in Monkayo, where they were initially detained.

The two were reportedly arrested by soldiers led by Lt. Jeffrey Villarosa of the Army's 60th Infantry Battalion in Barangay Casoon, also in Monkayo, on Jan. 29.

The two were turned over on Jan. 31 to the municipal police where they have been detained since.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, on Saturday ordered an investigation of Karapatan's complaint after learning about the arrests from the media.

Beng Hernandez, Karapatan deputy secretary general, said the two detainees claimed that the soldiers splashed boiling water and ice-cold water on them. She said the detainees also claimed that they were subjected to "water cure," a form of torture widely used during martial law. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Coliform plagues Dumaguete folk hangout

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—If your idea of fun is to wade or swim in waters off scenic Rizal Boulevard here, just remember one thing: Don't gulp the water.

A recent study of the Silliman University Marine Laboratory showed that the water at the boulevard has consistently high levels of coliform bacteria emanating from both human and animal wastes.

The same study showed that the amount of bacteria at the boulevard and at the mouth of the Banica River, about 500 meters south of the boulevard, were too "numerous to count."

The tests were also done in Barangays Bantayan, Looc and Calindagan and at the pier area, all in Dumaguete.

The study, made in October last year, did not say where the wastes came from. But it is common knowledge among Dumaguete folk that the drainage systems of most commercial establishments and houses in the city empty into the sea.

The results also showed that both the E. coli and S. Typhimurium bacteria, that emanate from human and animal wastes respectively, were "too numerous to count" at Bantayan, the pier area and at Calindagan near the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) office.

However, the tests showed that except in the boulevard, pier and at the mouth of the Banica River, the bacteria count in Barangays Bantayan, Looc and Calindagan fell with the coming of the tide that washes away the bacteria.

When matched with the standards of the National Pollution Control Commission, the areas fit for swimming are at least 500 meters from the shore and only when the tide is coming in.

The bacteria count on the shores of Dumaguete, especially during low tide, makes the shores fit only for boating, fishing or for industrial purposes.

Politics muddles quarry deaths case

CEBU CITY—Cebu Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez has called for an investigation of Madridejos town officials led by Mayor Doroteo Salazar, her potential rival in the coming elections, for alleged negligence that led to the deaths of four limestone crushers in a quarry in Sitio Langub, Barangay San Agustin on Friday.

Martinez, of Cebu's 4th District, said the town officials should be held liable for failing to enforce a Department of Environment and Natural Resources memorandum on illegal quarrying.

Salazar, who plans to challenge Martinez in May, said the congresswoman "is just politicking."

"She (Martinez) is using the tragedy to advance her political interests," he charged.

He said he had warned the victims of the danger at the quarry site but they would not listen. "I could not stop them from making a living," he said.

But Martinez said local officials are supposed to stop all quarry and mining operations that are not sanctioned by the DENR.

She said the DENR should initiate the filing of a case against town officials because "the deaths were a result of the violation of its (DENR's) memo circular pertaining to quarry operations."

The Office of the Visayas Ombudsman can also initiate an administrative investigation, she added.

Salazar said he had warned residents not to engage in illegal quarrying because the site was dangerous. But he "pitied the families since they did not have other means of livelihood."

Two of the four victims, Gualberto Ducay, 60, and Esperanza Escala, 53, were buried Sunday, said Frederick Salazar, the mayor's son who led in rescue operations. Ducay's body was the last to be found.

The two other fatalities were Lucia Desabille, 36, and Gualberto's sister-in-law, Gerarda, 53. Esperanza's 14-year-old son, Ramil, was the lone survivor.

The victims were pinned during a cave-in at the quarry. They were digging in a pit in a 50-square-meter site when the walls of the pit collapsed. Rescuers said the biggest rock that crashed on them was about half the size of a 10-wheel truck. *Nestor Ramirez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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The resignation that never was

(From page A1)

"In my sincere desire to improve the lives of our people, I have been privileged to have served our countrymen from the highest office in government. I had discharged my duties to the best of my abilities and with full faith in our people. And it had been my badge of honor to be a President of the *masa*, the common man—for indeed, I am one of them.

"Though I leave the position as President of our beloved country, I only hope that our people shall always see me as the President of the *masa*. And I hope that history shall judge me kindly."

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001

9:30 a.m.—After meeting with the emissaries of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, I return to the Presidential Residence with Dondon Bagatsing and Macel Fernandez of the Presidential Management Staff.

Immediately, in a series of phone calls, Gen. Angelo Reyes and I agree on the wording of two sticky issues: the provisions on the President's resignation and a request to open the controversial second envelope in the impeachment trial

I also clear the final wording with Senate President Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel.

9:45 a.m.—(Former) Secretaries Jun Rivera (transportation), Mario Tiaoqui (energy), VG Vigilar (public works), Tony Cerilles (environment), Benny Laguesma (labor), Quasi Romualdez (health), and Ronnie Puno (interior) arrive at the residence. The President's friend Melo Santiago is also there.

11:00 a.m.—Between General Reyes and myself, there is a firm agreement on the five points to effect a peaceful transition. I can hear the general clearing all these points with a group he is with. I hear voices in the background.

Agreement

The agreement starts: "1. The President shall resign today, 20 January 2001, which resignation shall be effective on 24 January 2001, on which day the Vice President will assume the presidency of the Republic of the Philippines."

Annexed is a copy of the President's resignation letter.

The rest of the agreement follows:

"2. The transition process for the assumption of the new administration shall commence on 20 January 2001, wherein persons designated by the Vice President to various government positions shall start orientation activities with incumbent officials.

"3. The Armed Forces of the Philippines through its Chief of Staff, shall guarantee the safety and security of the President and his families throughout their natural lifetimes as approved by the national military and police authority—Vice President.

"4. The AFP and the Philippine National Police ('PNP') shall function under the Vice President as national military and police authorities.

"5. Both parties request the impeachment court to open the second envelope in the impeachment trial, the contents of which shall be offered as proof that the subject savings account does not belong to the President.

"The Vice President shall issue a public statement in the form and tenor provided for in Annex 'B' heretofore attached to this agreement."

Commendation

Former political adviser Lito Banayo had prepared the statement in Annex B:

"I take this singular opportunity to commend His Excellency, President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, for his rare display of statesmanship in effecting a peaceful transition of power amidst divisive political conflict that has beset our beloved country.

"Throughout this crisis, President Estrada has shown steadfast adherence to the Constitution and its processes, with the highest consideration for the national interest.

"As he leaves the highest office in the land within the gift of our sovereign people, the Filipino nation and I salute him and wish that the true patriot who brought peace to our country in this transition find peace for himself."

11:00 a.m.—Radio commentators report that Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto has allowed the anti-Erap demonstrators to proceed to Mendiola. This prompts the Presidential Security Group to arm civilians in the Palace.

Sensing that this will unduly cause violence and bloodshed, I immediately call General Reyes to order a stop to Maganto's supposed order.

Last act

11:05 a.m.—Loi, the First Lady, and her daughter Jackie Lopez visit the Palace chapel. After praying for fifteen minutes, they exit the Palace. It turns out to be the last act of the Estrada family at the Palace.

The PSG guards immediately lock the doors of Malacañang after they leave.

11:20 a.m.—I am all set to fax General Reyes and Nene Pimentel our agreement, signed by our side and awaiting the signature of the United Opposition.

And then it happens. General Reyes calls me to say that the Supreme Court has decided that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is President and will be sworn in at 12 noon.

"*Bakit hindi naman kayo nakahintay? Paano na ang agreement* (Why couldn't you wait? What about the agreement)?" I asked.

Reyes answered: "*Wala na*, sir (It's over, sir)."

I ask him: "*Di yung* transition period, moot and academic *na*?"

And General Reyes answers: "*Oo nga, i*-delete *na natin*, sir (Yes, we're deleting that part)."

Contrary to subsequent reports, I do not react and say that there was a double cross.

But I immediately instruct Macel to delete the first provision on resignation since this matter is already moot and academic. Within moments, Macel erases the first provision and faxes the documents, which have been signed by myself, Dondon and Macel, to Nene Pimentel and General Reyes.

I direct Demaree Raval to rush the original document to General Reyes for the signatures of the other side, as it is important that the provisions on security, at least, should be respected.

I then advise the President that the Supreme Court has ruled that Chief Justice Davide will administer the oath to Gloria at 12 noon.

The President is too stunned for words.

Final meal

12 noon—Gloria takes her oath as President of the Republic of the Philippines.

12:20 p.m.—The PSG distributes firearms to some people inside the compound.

The President is having his final meal at the Presidential Residence with the few friends and Cabinet members who have gathered.

By this time, demonstrators have already broken down the first line of defense at Mendiola. Only the PSG is there to protect the Palace, since the police and military have already withdrawn their support for the President.

1 p.m.—The President's personal staff is rushing to pack as many of the Estrada family's personal possessions as they can.

During lunch, Ronnie Puno mentions that the President needs to release a final statement before leaving Malacañang.

The statement reads: "At twelve o'clock noon today, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as President of the Republic of the Philippines. While along with many other legal minds of our country, I have strong and serious doubts about the legality and constitutionality of her proclamation as President, I do not wish to be a factor that will prevent the restoration of unity and order in our civil society.

"It is for this reason that I now leave Malacañang Palace, the seat of the presidency of this country, for the sake of peace and in order to begin the healing process of our nation. I leave the Palace of our people with gratitude for the opportunities given to me for service to our people. I will not shirk from any future challenges that may come ahead in the same service of our country.

"I call on all my supporters and followers to join me in the promotion of a constructive national spirit of reconciliation and solidarity.

"May the Almighty bless our country and our beloved people.

"MABUHAY!"

The end

As we are seated at the lunch table, the President receives a call from General Reyes, who assures him that he can still stay at the Palace for another five days.

But later, when the President asks me, "*Ed, kailangan ko na bang umalis* (Do I have to leave now)?" I immediately tell him: "Yes, Mr. President, for your safety and your family's."

1:40 p.m.—The sentry gate is locked.

1:50 p.m.—General Diaz of the PSG calls on all detailed PSG personnel to gather in front of the residence for the send-off of the President.

The President says goodbye to the people who have stayed with him until the end at the presidential residence, then turns and climbs the staircase.

I leave around this time, exhausted from the previous days' events.

2:30 p.m.—The President leaves Malacañang and boards a barge for San Juan.

De Villa: Factual except for omissions

(From page A1)

"In our talking points, we agreed that Mr. Estrada's resignation letter would be dated noontime" Jan. 20, that the transition period would start on that day, and that then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would assume the presidency on Jan. 24, De Villa said.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando "Nonoy" Andaya Jr., a "silent operator" of the Lakas party during Edsa II, agreed that Angara's account was "very accurate"—except for his implication that the Macapagal camp negotiated for Estrada's exit in bad faith.

"If there was any bad faith during the negotiations, it was probably in the Estrada camp's insistence that he be given those five days," Andaya said.

"If the account proved anything, it was that Angara was loyal to his president until the end. He wanted to impress upon the reader that he is a loyal friend and a dedicated public servant," he added.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, one of the Spice Boys of Congress holed up at the Linden Suites where Ms Macapagal was billeted during the negotiations, blamed the collapse of the talks on "Angara's non-negotiable stance against leaving Malacañang."

Zubiri recalled seeing the Macapagal negotiators "looking very frustrated every time they returned from the talks because of Angara's hardline stance against (Estrada's) exit."

Palace demands

In an interview with radio station dzRH, De Villa, one of the opposition emissaries sent to Malacañang on Jan. 20 for the after-midnight negotiations, said Angara left out certain Palace demands in his account of the events of Jan. 19-20, published in a three-part series in the INQUIRER. *(See story on Page A1.)*

De Villa said that the demands of the Angara group included a letter from Ms Macapagal commending Estrada for stepping down, a new round of negotiations, and Estrada's "lifetime" immunity from suit—all of which led to the breakdown of the talks.

Angara details these demands in the last part of the series in today's issue.

'Nothing to talk about'

De Villa was referring to a 7:30 a.m. meeting—the second round of negotiations—that Angara presided over in Malacañang on Jan. 20.

With De Villa, representing Macapagal, were now Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and now presidential chief of staff Renato Corona.

De Villa said that when it was clear that Angara's side was not going to give them the resignation letter, the Macapagal team told them that "if you don't give us the letter of resignation, then we have nothing to talk about."

Corona corroborated this, saying in a separate interview that the emissaries went to the meeting with the understanding that they were just going to pick up the signed letter.

But when the meeting started, he said, Angara only gave them a "working document" containing Estrada's demands.

'Beautiful words'

De Villa confirmed that the Macapagal camp did come up with a "suggested format" for Estrada's resignation letter and that they wanted the letter signed by 6 a.m. of Jan. 20.

The executive secretary said, however, that Angara did not mention in his account that the latter had insisted that the negotiations continue.

Angara "also didn't say that they were asking for immunity from prosecution for the whole lifetime (of Mr. Estrada) and . . . (of) several others," he said.

Also, Angara's group sought Macapagal's commitment that the Senate would open the second envelope containing evidence in relation to corruption charges against Estrada in his impeachment trial, supposedly to clear Estrada's name.

"We told them that we could not commit to that because the Executive is not part of that," De Villa said.

Angara's side also wanted Ms Macapagal to sign a letter "commending the former President for all the many things (he supposedly did)—beautiful words," he noted. This "letter," too, is part of Angara's article today.

So fast

Andaya, for his part, said the swift turn of events during the four days of Edsa II made it difficult for the Macapagal and Estrada negotiators to reach an agreement.

In criticizing the Macapagal camp, Angara noted that De Villa told him that a group was already arranging for Macapagal's oath-taking even as negotiations were being finalized.

Andaya said Angara should have considered the pace of events before accusing the new administration of having negotiated in bad faith.

"At that point, everything was going so fast. After every 20 minutes, things and circumstances changed and it was very difficult to come to an agreement," Andaya told a news conference.

Disagreeing on strategy

Andaya stressed that at the time, Ms Macapagal was concerned with preventing bloodshed and planning for the peaceful exit of her predecessor, and was worried about the angry crowd at the Edsa Shrine.

"The Estrada camp insisted on five days, but we said we could not give them that because there was no clearance from Lakas," Andaya said.

Zubiri said the Macapagal team's "frustration stemmed from the fact that the crowd in Edsa could not be controlled anymore. They wanted to surround Malacañang but we wanted to prevent bloodshed."

Zubiri confessed that even Ms Macapagal's own negotiators disagreed on strategy in terms of hastening Estrada's exit.

"One group, which was led by someone who is now a Cabinet official, wanted to lead the anti-Estrada groups to Malacañang to create a standoff. He was confident that the military would be forced to take the people's side this way," he said.

Other Macapagal supporters, on the other hand, wanted the anti-Estrada protesters to remain on Edsa, round up defecting military officials at the nearby Galleria Suites, and surround them with hundreds of thousands of demonstrators.

Erap asks SC to stop Ombudsman

(From page A1)

But I don't go for that . . . they should all be jailed," he said over radio dzRH.

Several groups, which figured prominently in People Power II that ousted Estrada, threatened to effect a citizen's arrest on Estrada if the government failed to prosecute him before the Sandiganbayan.

But Rene Saguisag, a lawyer whose wife served as Estrada's social work secretary, warned of unrest and street rallies if Estrada was arrested.

"The emotions it will arouse may lead to something we cannot control," Saguisag said. "He has a following that will not agree that the present government is legitimate."

In a 19-page petition, Estrada, through his lawyers Cleofe Verzola and Pacifico A. Agabin, said his "executive immunity from suit is absolute" as he "is merely on a leave of absence from the Office of the President."

"The immunity of the President from suit is mandated by the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers," he said.

Estrada explained that "this holds true specially for the Executive, otherwise an incumbent President who is convicted in a criminal case would be able to pardon himself."

The ousted President asked the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order or a writ of preliminary injunction against Desierto and the complainants in the case.

The complainants include lawyers Ramon Gonzales, Leonardo De Vera, Dennis Funa, Romeo Capulong and Ernesto Francisco Jr. as well as the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption and the Graft Free Philippines Foundation Inc.

"This petition raises the simple question as to whether or not a criminal case can be prosecuted against a sitting President of the Philippines," Estrada said.

He maintained that he "is the incumbent President of the Philippines, having taken his oath of office on June 30, 1998."

"He is presently unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office and hence resides at No. 1 Polk Street, San Juan, Metro Manila," Estrada said.

The petition underscored that Estrada "never resigned from the Office of the President."

"In fact, petitioner never had any intention of resigning and never committed or even attempted any act amounting to resignation," he said.

Neither has Estrada been removed from office nor permanently disabled to justify the Vice President to become President, according to the petition.

The petition is expected to receive heavy resistance from the Department of Justice, which yesterday joined hands with the private prosecutors involved in the impeachment trial to strengthen its cases against the ousted President.

In a press conference, Justice Secretary Perez announced that the private prosecutors, led by former Ateneo Law School Dean Eduardo de los Angeles, Arno Sanidad, Simeon Marcelo and Leonardo de Vera, would assist the DOJ in "prosecuting, trying, convicting, forfeiting ill-gotten wealth" in the Estrada case.

De los Angeles will be leading the panel that will try Estrada on charges of ill-gotten wealth. Sanidad and Marcelo, who conducted the direct examination on former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson during the impeachment trial, will head the team that will prosecute the charges of bribery and plunder against Estrada.

De Vera and Jose Manuel Diokno will lead the panel that will prosecute the BW scandal case.

"The difference now is that the government is now on the side of the prosecutors. The DOJ shall assist in the gathering of more evidence (against Estrada)," Perez said.

Desierto said the preliminary investigation would be completed in less than 30 days.

"The 60-day period prescribes only the maximum period for the completion of the preliminary investigation, but that resolutions on specific charges would be issued, and, if warranted criminal charges filed with the Sandiganbayan far earlier in the period—in about 30 days or even less," he said.

No counsel

In a four-page motion dated Feb. 3, Estrada claimed that nobody—even his lawyers at the impeachment trial—was willing to defend him before the Ombudsman.

He said that without "professional help," he would be unable to present an intelligent response to the complaints. Thus, his right to due process could be abridged, he claimed.

Estrada said he, his wife Loi, and son Jinggoy, who were named as his co-respondents, were still in the process of looking for their counsel.

"Lawyers who have previously assisted us in the impeachment proceedings before the Senate knowledgeable of the subject matter of these complaints . . . have informed us of their inability to act as our counsel in these cases for various personal reasons," he said.

But lawyers Saguisag and Oliver Lozano have expressed willingness to act as Estrada's counsels.

Estrada pointed out that the issues in the cases and the bulk of the material which needed to be evaluated "are of such complexity that respondents on their own will be unable to address them with such specificity and vigor."

He also invoked that the "present lynch-mob mood of hatred and vengeance . . . will not permit a dispassionate, non-partisan, and non-vengeful resolution of" the cases.

Picket at Desierto's office

Several groups picketed the Office of the Ombudsman on Arroceros Street in Manila at 10:30 a.m. to pressure Desierto into indicting Estrada before the Sandiganbayan.

Carrying placards and banners, about a hundred people denounced Estrada, saying he should be, arrested, convicted and his billions of pesos in ill-gotten wealth returned to the people.

Desierto asked the groups to meet him at his office for a dialogue.

Among those present at the dialogue were Capulong and Marie Yuviengco, both private prosecutors in the impeachment trial of Estrada; Carol Araullo, vice chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and convenor of the Estrada Resign Movement (ERM); Fr. Joe Dizon, spokesperson of the ERM and leader of the group Kairos; Maan Hontiveros of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines; Josie Lichauco of Kompil II; Tess Baltazar of Konsensyang Pilipino; and Danny Ramos of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

Others representated Gabriela, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, University of the Philippines Coalition for Urgent Reform and Empowerment, League of Filipino Students, and the College Editors Guild of the Philippines among others.

Araullo told Desierto that the same people that brought down the Estrada administration would be willing to arrest Estrada once the Ombudsman succumbed to "pressures" from persons close to the deposed President.

Araullo asked for Desierto's impartiality and reiterated that the issue of justice and restitution was non-negotiable. "The minute that we see a sign of foot-dragging, we would not hesitate to demand the resignation of Desierto," she said. "Edsa II will not be finished until those officials who violated the law would be brought to the bar of justice."

But others clarified that they were not only after Desierto but the entire Macapagal government, which might decide to dispense with the prosecution of Estrada if he would agree to go into exile.

Prima facje case

"As of now we are sure and convinced that there's a case against Estrada. Based on the evidence at hand, there's a prima facie case to prosecute him with the Sandiganbayan," Desierto said.

But he clarified that he was still mandated by law to hear the side of Estrada. "It would have to give him until Feb. 12 to answer charges. But we will do justice here," Desierto said.

After that, the seven complaints would be deemed submitted for resolution.

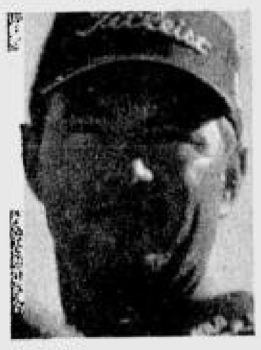
With this assurance, leaders of the groups present during the dialogue agreed to support Desierto. They expressed willingness to provide any information that the Ombudsman deemed vital for the successful prosecution of Estrada.

But Capulong asked Desierto for a categorical assurance that he—as head of a constitutional body—would not succumb to the "corrosive influence of power and money."

Desierto said it was easy to indict the deposed President for malversation of public funds and bribery. "What is complicated is plunder. For plunder to exist there must be a showing that there were three crimes or acts committed." ***With a report from Armand N. Nocum***

PEBBLE BEACH TILT

Love rallies from 7 shots off, wins by 1



LOVE

PEBBLE BEACH, California —A seven-stroke deficit was wiped out in seven holes, but that's where the similarities ended Sunday in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. This time, the stunning comeback happened early, and it belonged to Davis Love III.

Seven strokes behind to start the final round, Love erased that margin by playing his first seven holes in a staggering 8-under par. He finished with a 9-under 63, and buried his 0-for-62 winless drought on the Professional Golfers Association Tour.

Love finished at 272 for a one-stroke victory over Vijay Singh, and three shots ahead of Phil Mickelson. Both had a chance to force a playoff until crucial shots went over the cliff and into the Pacific Ocean.

"It's not what I expected," Love said.

Most of the attention was on Tiger Woods, who made up seven strokes over his last seven holes last year for an amazing victory. Woods was only a spectator on another gorgeous day on the Monterey Peninsula, playing in the group behind Love and watching a comeback that must have looked familiar.

Love's 63 was the lowest finish by a winner in the 60-year history of the National Pro-Am, topping the 64 Woods had last year.

It also was the best score ever at Pebble Beach without being able to lift, clean and place. Tom Kite in 1983 and David Duval in 1997 each had a 62 in those conditions.

The seven-stroke comeback tied the National Pro-Am record first set by Bob Rosburg in 1961.

But Love needed some help.

Singh was one stroke behind when his tee shot on the par-3 17th sailed left of the green and over the cliff. He birdied the 18th for a 69.

Mickelson, a co-leader after 54 holes, was one stroke back and in great shape in the 18th fairway when he shot from 257 yards. His shot went left, over the sea wall and bounding onto the rocks.

He made double bogey and closed with a 73.

Olin Browne, the other co-leader, also had a 73 to tie for third.

That left Love a winner for the first time since April 1998, and the author of a comeback that was not quite as thrilling as what Woods did last year, but required a game that was no less impressive.

The signature shot was a 97-yard wedge he holed for eagle from the 15th fairway. Love had one of those, too, a 104-yard wedge that went in for an eagle on the par-5 second hole that sent him on his way.

Love made no worse than birdie on his first seven holes, went out in 28 and then took the lead with a 3-wood into the famous 18th hole that landed pin high about 35 feet away to set up a two-putt birdie.

The victory was a long time coming for Love, who has 14 career victories but had not won since the 1998 MCI Classic. He had seven runner-up finishes and three thirds during that span, putting pressure on himself to win as each week went by.

What might have helped was winning Woods' tournament, the unofficial Williams World Challenge, in December. Love came from four strokes behind to beat Woods by two.

Woods was never a factor Sunday. *AP*

FINAL SCORES:

Davis Love III	71-69-69-63_272
Vijay Singh	66-68-70-69_273
Phil Mickelson	70-66-66-73_275
Olin Browne	68-69-65-73_275
Ronnie Black	67-68-70-71_276
Glen Day	68-75-69-65_277
Craig Barlow	67-71-67-72_277
Jerry Kelly	69-68-68-73_278
Mike Weir	70-70-65-73_278
Franklin Langham	70-70-70-68_278
Frank Nobilo	70-70-67-71_278
Scott McCarron	68-73-65-73_279
Tiger Woods	66-73-69-72_280
Grant Waite	70-73-71-66_280
Tim Herron	67-70-74-69_280
Mike Springer	72-70-71-67_280
Brad Faxon	71-67-69-73_280
Kirk Triplett	71-69-70-70_280
Kenny Perry	70-70-69-71_280
Kevin Sutherland	72-69-70-70_281
David Berganio	64-73-71-73_281

Lam-Am tourney reels off Southern Ladies in Bacolod

ANDRADA

A MALE amateur will be paired with a competing female today in the Lam-Am Tournament kicking off the NGAP Southern Ladies Golf Championships at the Bacolod Golf & Country Club in Binitin, Bacolod City.

The net score of the best-ball, twosome format will count in the side event that drew more than 100 participants from across the nation.

"Again, make way for the fairer sex of the game starting Tuesday," said Alice Andrada, treasurer of the organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines. "This is our tournament so, please, pause a little gentlemen of the fairways and take notice of us, your partners not only in nation-building but also in the game we all love to enjoy."

Andrada, together with Bacolod GCC president Donnie Poblador, BGCC ladies chapter president Jhay Montelibano, Mayor Oscar Verdeflor and NGAP president Rod Feliciano, will hit the ceremonial tees at 7 a.m.

Feliciano described the Southern Ladies as the "one institution that has continuously and consistently put on the forefront the importance of women in the game of golf.

Said Feliciano: "The Southern Ladies is a symbol of unity for our women golfers. The event has survived years and years of trials and tribulations, an indication that its strength lies in its capacity to withstand the rigors of time and for which we, in the NGAP, have taken cognizance of."

Feliciano's own DHL empire is one of the major sponsors of the tournament. Other supporters are PAL, Hidden Springs, Bacolod Executive Inn, VF Belmonte Corp., DPC, Philippine Sports Commission and Master Sports.

The Southern Ladies, unfurling its 36th season, will start tomorrow and will end on Friday, with Heidi Chua back to defend the crown she won last year in Cagayan de Oro City.

The country's top lady parbusters from the national training pool are entered, including Ruby Chico Walker, Aileen Chua, Lina de Guzman, Carmelette Villaroman, Lucy Landicho, Tracy Locsin and Loralie Roberto.

Kobe takes charge as Lakers beat Kings

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant, his shooting touch off, still scored 26 points and added 11 rebounds to lead the Los Angeles Lakers past the Sacramento Kings 100-94 in the NBA Sunday night.

Winning for the third time in five games since Shaquille O'Neal went out with a foot injury, the defending NBA champion Lakers pulled within two games of the Pacific Division-leading Kings, who have been the best in the West this season, on Sunday. *AP*

Complete results:

New York 103, Miami 100, OT; L.A. Lakers 100, Sacramento 94; Boston 103, Cleveland 82; New Jersey 96, Philadelphia 89; Phoenix 85, Charlotte 82. *AP*

Ucap derby on tonight

THE 4TH Ucap CPB-PBRJ Farm 6-Cock Derby, hosted by Mindanao cockers Boyboy Roa and Mayor Claudy Bautista, unfolds at 6 tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Slated tonight is the 2-cock elimination round bannering more than 40 quality fights. The finals (4-cock) is on Thursday, Feb. 8.

The event comes on the heels of the highly successful Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby last week ruled by lawyer Ram Lopez Ariba Albay entry (7.5 points), using the hard-hitting Irish Whitehackle battlecrosses of Oklahoma pit star Chuck Berry.

Runner-up honors went to BJ Greenwood II of Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos, Starwars Sagupaan of Tony Litonjua, Swing of Tony Tan and RFP Argem Coliseum of Romy Pamatmat, each with 7 points.

Jessie Viceo's San Rafael and Mayor Claudy Bautista's CPB PBRJ 1 has 6.5 points each. Esting Teopaco's EGT Stingers and Raymond Velayo/Boy Diaz' Arnis Master II posted six points apiece.

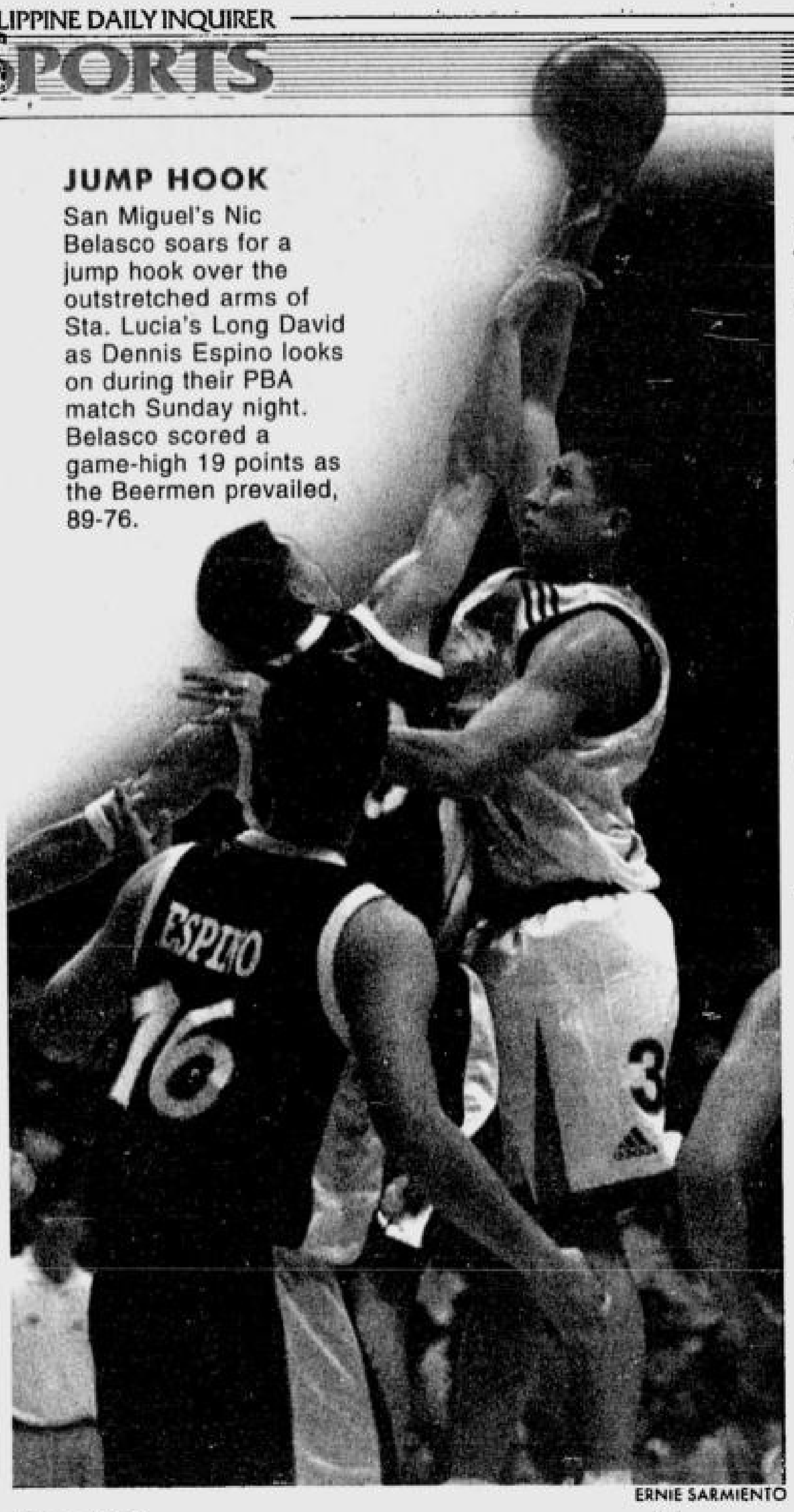
For other inquiries, please contact 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

Roligon meet

THE LAST batch of finalists that will complete the roster of championship contenders in the ongoing "Roligon 11th Anniversary 7-Cock Derby" will be known today as the eighth and last elimination round gets going with more than 80 matches lined up.

Master breeder Freddie Yulo (AMY Game Farm) of Hinigaran, Negros Occidental leads tonight's participants that include Greg Ayroso and Dr. Biboy Lazaro of Maxxi Game Farm, Mike Buendia, lawyer Rudy Salud, lawyer Alex Carlos, Rico Chan, Alex Cruz, Bert Arizobal, Boy Dichupa, Luke Gaston, Alex Camposano and Val Reyes, among others.

As expected last Saturday's seventh round of hostilities netted 10 perfect scores pushing the number of sure finalists to 37.



JUMP HOOK

San Miguel's Nic Belasco soars for a jump hook over the outstretched arms of Sta. Lucia's Long David as Dennis Espino looks on during their PBA match Sunday night. Belasco scored a game-high 19 points as the Beermen prevailed, 89-76.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

RP cagers need to prove worth

BY JUNE NAVARRO

BASKETBALL, perennial gold medal favorite in the Southeast Asian Games, will have to top its international exposure in the run-up to the biennial meet this September to qualify as part of the Philippine contingent.

This developed as members of the joint Philippine Sports Committee-Philippine Olympic Committee Task Force yesterday decided to employ tightening measures on the qualification of athletes and events.

PSC chair Carlos Tuason said the men's team would have to prove its worth and maintain its level of performance before the Kuala Lumpur meet in order to snare a slot in the RP delegation.

Composed mostly of MBA stalwarts, the men's team will compete in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association in March before defending the SEA Games crown.

"A bronze medal is just used as a basis. If they don't make it, they're out," said Tuason.

Newly elected bowling chief Steve Hontiveros, sitting as technical committee head, shared Tuason's views, noting the RP cagers should at least land in the top three in their respective international tourneys.

Sepak takraw, volleyball, water polo and boxing officials also presented the viability of their disciplines in the joint Task Force meeting also attended by SEAG chief of mission Freddie Jalasco, Nestor Ilagan and boxing's Manny Lopez representing the POC.

Tuason, commissioner Richie Garcia and Atleta director Tats Suzara represented the PSC side.

Meanwhile, Executive Director Juan Cuadrado yesterday denied allegations that chair Carlos Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission forced him to sign the documentation of complaint against former commissioner Teresita Abundo.

"This is a simple case of creating malicious intrigue between me and the members of the PSC board to muddle the facts," Cuadrado told the INQUIRER.

Defense

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

FOR sheer action, you can count on the PBL Finals between Welcoat Paints and Shark Energy Drink. That was what we saw in Game 2 of the best-of-seven title playoffs.

Although Game 1 resulted in a one-sided victory for Welcoat, that happened because that game unmasked Shark's tendency to hide its teeth in the face of a strong challenge by an enemy.

What a pity.

Shark, as was the case last year, again topped the eliminations this year. Why it got torn to shreds in Game 1 was a mind-boggler.

Oh well, a tough stance being met by a token opposition.

That was what Shark sadly exhibited in Game 1: A mere token opposition. Very unShark-like attitude.

If you are a Shark, aren't you supposed to dish it out, teeth and all?

If you are a Shark, aren't you supposed to act out in full the role of Orca?

Jaws was not filmed for sissies, bebe.

Anyway, Shark finally sank some teeth in Game 2. Trouble was, Welcoat was simply too tough a prey.

But it was good enough. Shark didn't shirk responsibility, didn't skirt the issue as it finally shed its true color, if not its true horror.

Fighting as though its life was on the line, Shark flashed its fury right at the start in a radical departure from its unmistakable meek resistance against Welcoat in Game 1.

While Game 1 was an all-Welcoat show, Game 2 was pure Shark attack from beginning to end—almost.

It was only at close to the 1-minute mark did Shark lose steam as the deadly barracuda in Welcoat resurfaced to deflect Shark's thrusts.

Welcoat's championship savvy all but smothered Shark's blood-curdling rampage in the endgame, an area that Shark has yet to perfect especially in a titular showdown.

Shark, for the record, had displayed an endgame brilliance while topping the eliminations.

Alas, in Game 2, the endgame factor, which really separates the champion from the loser, was again sadly missing from Shark's arsenal of strategies.

Shark had its offense going perfectly all right in Game 2, leading by 65-59 with a little over a minute left.

And then a leak sprang from its defensive rotation.

For, why was Painter Celino Cruz left open in rainbow country when the trey is supposed to be the main weapon during a rallly? Cruz cruelly drilled in that trey, igniting a Welcoat rally that spelled victory that produced a 2-0 series lead.

Shark had offense in Game 2. It also had defense—alas, only up to the 39th minute or so of the 40-minute game.

Maybe, Shark needs to seek assistance from Eduardo R. Ermita, GMA's newly installed secretary of defense, to win today's Game 3.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - St. John's Red Storm vs Notre Dame Fighting Irish at 8 a.m., Charlotte 49ers vs Houston Cougars at 11 a.m. (r) on ESPN

Chinese National Basketball League at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA - New York Knicks vs New Jersey Nets at 5 p.m. (r) and Charlotte Hornets vs Los Angeles Lakers at 7:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: Heineken Classic 2001, Day Two at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

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AFC subdues NFC rivals

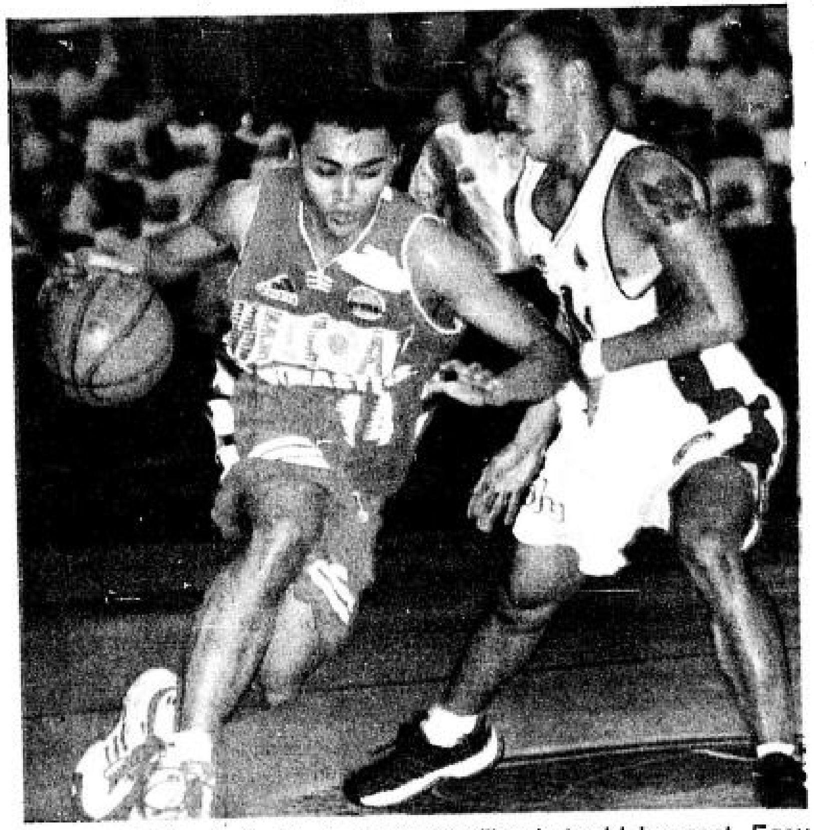
HONOLULU —Rich Gannon got the AFC off to a winning start in the Pro Bowl, then took the rest of the day off. Gannon, who led the Oakland Raiders to their best season in 10 years, passed for 160 yards and two touchdowns in the first 11 minutes Sunday as the AFC rolled to a 38-17 victory over the NFC. It was enough to earn MVP honors for the 35-year-old veteran playing in his second straight Pro Bowl. *AP*

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

Pole vault legend Bubka retires

KIEV, Ukraine —Sergei Bubka, the world's premier pole-vaulter, officially retired on Sunday, but said that although his life will be earthbound it won't be slow. In his long career, the 37-year-old Bubka set world records 35 times and still holds the both the indoor and outdoor marks of 20 feet 2 inches (6.15 meters) and 20 feet 1 3/4 inches (6.14 meters) respectively. No one else has come close. *AP*



PBL MVP Ritualo (left), shown in this file photo driving past Egay Billones of Blu, will spearhead Welcoat attack.

PBL SERIES

Welcoat seeks 3-0 lead

Best-of-seven
Game One—Welcoat 72, Shark 59
Game Two-Welcoat 92, Shark 86

Games today: (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Montaña (for 3rd)
5:30 p.m.—Welcoat vs Shark (championship)

By Dennis U. Eroa

THEY'VE earned respect but the bigger question remains: Will Shark Energy Drink's new-found bite be enough to thwart Welcoat's march to its fourth straight title?

The answer will be known today as Welcoat tries to move within a win of clinching the PBL Challenge Cup when it tackles Shark in Game Three of the best-of-seven title series at the Makati Coliseum.

Gametime is 5:30 p.m., after the 3:30 p.m. clash for third place between Blu Sun Power and Montaña Jewels.

The Paintmasters won the first two games. Shark lost badly in Game One, 72-59, and nearly pulled the rugs from under Welcoat in the next game, 92-86.

Welcoat, which also swept Shark, 4-0, in the Chairman's' Cup, boasts of having the league's deepest bench. It is also known for its poise under pressure and Austria needs to squeeze the best out of his wards in order to survive.

"I believe Leo (Austria) will make it tougher for us," said Welcoat coach Junel Baculi. "Shark's pointguard rotation clicked."

Meanwhile, Ren Ren Ritualo of Welcoat was adjudged MVP of the Challenge Cup during the awarding ceremonies yesterday at the National Sports Grill.

The PBL Press Corps also picked Ritualo as Player of the Year, the same honor he received from the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Baculi emerged as Tactician of the year, while Yancy de Ocampo bagged the Insider plum. Montaña's Gilbert Lao and Jacques Gottenbos were the Most Improved and Sportsmanship awardees, respectively.

Shark's Michael Robinson was named Mr. Intangible, while Jojo Manalo and Eugene Tan emerged Mr. Crunchtime and Defense Minister, respectively.

Chester Tolomia and Roger Yap of Shark, De Ocampo and Rookie of the year Marlon Legaspi of Blu Sun Power joined Ritualo in the mythical five.

Ateneo-Pioneer's Richard Alvarez, Robinson, Manalo, Gilbert Malabanan and Tan made the second mythical team.

PBL chair Dioceldo Sy and Commissioner Chino Trinidad handed the awards to the winners.

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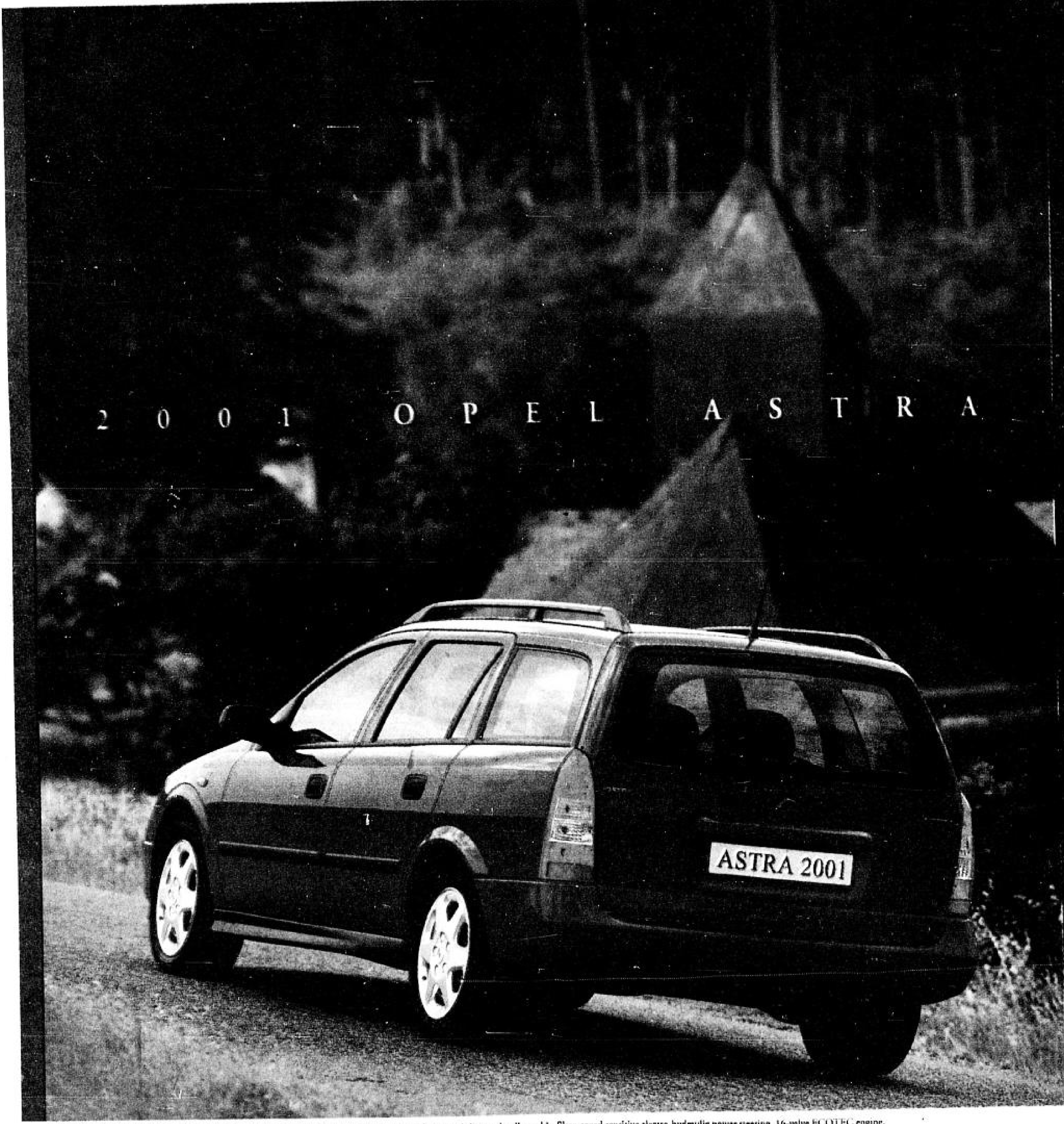

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Erap group fails anew, vows to bring in millions A16

MEMBERS of League of Filipino Students are tied down by symbolic ball-and-chain in the vicinity of the US Embassy yesterday to dramatize their protest against alleged American intervention over the release of political prisoners. ERIK ARAZAS

CHEERS

Big-time Chinese drug pusher falls

POLICE have arrested a Chinese man found with more than three kilos of shabu during a sting operation in Binondo, Manila on Sunday afternoon.

Supt. Richard Albano, head of the WPD-District Police Investigation Unit, identified the suspect as Ruben Dy alias Reh Ming, a native of Xiamen, China and temporarily residing at 8146-A C. Alvarado St., Binondo.

Seized from Dy were several transparent plastic bags containing 3.17 kilos of the illegal substance valued at P4.5 million.

Albano said that after more than a week of surveillance his team was able to arrange to buy P1.5 million worth of shabu.

Police said the suspect set the transaction at 2 p.m. at the corner of Condesa and Nueva Street in Binondo.

SPO1 Charlie Cosam, who spoke Mandarin, posed as a buyer and used fake money as payment. Unknown to the suspect, Cosam's companions SPO4 Danny Gomez and Police Officers 3 Paulino Yabut and Herminio Tiongson Jr. have been posted around the place.

Police said the suspect was arrested and handcuffed as soon as he received the money.

Another Xiamen native, Fan Yu Tong, a suspected small-scale pusher arrested during a buy-bust in Binondo on Jan. 31, tagged Dy as his source, police said.

Dy is detained at the WPD headquarters and will be charged with drug trafficking and drug possession.

Under the Revised Penal Code, persons found guilty of drug trafficking and possessing at least 250 grams of shabu would be given the death penalty. *Jerome Aning*

JEERS

Instead of apologizing, PSG man threatens driver

PRESIDENTIAL Security Group (PSG) member Corporal George F. Bernal bumped Ceferino Naquin's jeep in Quezon City Sunday night.

But instead of apologizing, the drunken PSG member pulled out his gun and pointed it at the face of a frightened Naquin.

Bernal, 51, a member of the Philippine Army residing at Malacañang Park in Manila, was brought to the Kamuning police station after he threatened Naquin, 29, of Phase 9 Block 11 in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, said desk officer SPO4 Edmund Senido.

Police also confiscated Bernal's service firearm, a.45 pistol. The soldier could not present a Commission on Election order exempting him from the election gun ban, Senido added.

Police said Naquin was driving his jeep on the corner of Scout Chuatoco and Champoca Streets in Barangay Roxas, Quezon City when Bernal's car collided with his.

Bernal, who was driving fast his orange car, with Plate No. NDX-241, struck the bumper of Naquian's jeep, police said.

Police said Naquin alighted from his jeep to look at the damage and saw Bernal also coming out of his car.

Instead of apologizing, Bernal, who Naquin said was drunk, poked his gun at his face.

Naquin said he was shocked and ran scared. Luckily, police in a roving patrol car saw the commotion and approached the two, Senido said.

Senido said Bernal was charged with grave threats and violation of the election gun ban before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Seaman chooses golf course to end his life

BY JEROME ANING

AN UNEMPLOYED and debt-ridden seaman chose to commit suicide in one of the playgrounds of the rich.

Late Sunday night, Benito Aseron, 50, was found hanging by the neck from an iron rail of the Intramuros golf course in Manila.

Shocked commuters and pedestrians on P. Burgos Drive who saw Aseron called police.

Aseron used a plastic straw to hang himself, police said. Welt marks apparently caused by the tightened noose were also found on his neck, said SPO1 Edgardo Ko of the Western Police District's homicide section. But there were no other signs of external injury in Aseron's body, Ko added.

Several sidewalk vendors told police they saw Aseron walking aimlessly along P. Burgos Drive in front of City Hall and the Andres Bonifacio Shrine.

They said they also saw Aseron watching late night golfers on the course.

Police said a handwritten note was found in Aseron's empty wallet. In the note, Aseron wrote of his frustration and desperation in finding a job to earn a living for his family in his native Tubigon, Bohol.

Aseron was apparently experiencing difficulties and delays in applying for an overseas job, police said. He was also reportedly unable to pay the rent for his room at 733 Real Street, Intramuros.

But Chief Supt. Juanito Taluban, homicide section chief, said Aseron's death would be treated as "death under inquiry" to determine if there was foul play. He also invited witnesses who might have seen Aseron hanging himself.

Aseron's body is at the Tres Amigos Funeral Homes in Paco, Manila.

'This is why we lose war against drugs'

HE should be put behind bars, not just summarily dismissed.

Rep. Ernesto Herrera (Lakas, Bohol) made this call as he urged Camp Crame to file criminal charges against an anti-narcotics operative of the Western Police District who filched 300 grams of shabu worth P600,000 from his station's evidence locker.

The case of Senior Police Officer 4 Norberto Murillo, relieved head of the WPD Station 9 Drug Enforcement Unit, Herrera said, highlights the extent by which police corruption has been bugging anti-narcotics operations.

"This is precisely the reason why we are losing the war against drugs. Because an increasing number of lawmen are themselves either using or pushing drugs, diverting seized drugs back into the market, or giving protection to drug traffickers," said Herrera, former chair of the Senate special committee on illegal drugs.

"The likes of Murillo should be put behind bars, not just summarily dismissed from the service," Herrera said.

Murillo's superiors have ordered him disarmed and put on technical arrest after he turned over to the WPD Crime Laboratory only 700 grams of the one kilo of shabu that his unit had seized from three suspected drug traffickers in Malate, Manila.

Murillo, 48, could not explain the 300-gram discrepancy.

He instead blamed another unit at the crime scene for the disappearance of the rest of the contraband.

Murillo's superiors said he had long been linked to the operations of drug traffickers in his area of jurisdiction.

FOR every kilo of seized shabu shown on display in this file photo, hoards of the illegal drug reach the market.

HERRERA

Erap: Perks without responsibility

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PEOPLE who want to become the president of the republic because of its perks and privileges without the responsibilities should take heart from Erap's words in his last days in office:

"Pagod na pagod na ako. Ayoko ko na—masyado nang masakit. Pagod na ako sa red tape, bureaucracy, *intriga* (I am very tired. I don't want any more of this—it's too painful. I'm tired of the red tape, the bureaucracy, the intrigues)."

Those were Erap's exact words according to former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara who stood by him to the end.

***

Erap thought he would enjoy the power of the presidency without the concomitant responsibilities that go with the office.

That's why until the impeachment trial, Erap was as carefree as a bird. He was almost always drunk not only with power but with red wine. He hopped from one bed to another. As a result, he was always late, if not absent, from important state functions. He didn't know what was happening to the economy and the country.

The former actor was so drunk with power that he didn't listen to his advisers. Even if he was told this Latin maxim he wouldn't know what it means because he wouldn't have asked about its meaning anyway: *Sic transit gloria mundi.* So goes the glory of the world. In other words, power is temporary.

***

Because Erap won in all the elections for public offices that he ran for, his fellow actors and other well-known personalities think that they, too, can do an Erap. They want to run for public office even when they're not suited for the jobs.

In fact, many of these people have followed in Erap's footsteps. They are now in high places when they and their constituents would have been better off if they didn't leave broadcast, acting and basketball. Of course, the exception is Loren Legarda who has easily adjusted to her newfound job because she does her homework.

Elective officials like Erap take advantage of the ignorance of the majority of the voters.

If only there were a law disallowing ignorant citizens from voting…

***

That was not the first time Erap was quoted as saying that he was tired of the presidency. He said so in the first few months he was in office.

One of his drinking buddies—I won't mention his name—told of an occasion at the Palace when Erap and his cronies were having a drinking spree. For one reason or another, ex-First Lady Loi Ejercito was seated beside Erap.

Erap, already drunk, complained to his friends: *"Ang hirap dito sa malaking bahay. Ang luwag-luwag at napakalungkot.* (It's difficult to live in this big house. The place is very spacious and lonely)."

***

Erap's next words embarrassed his guests because they were said in front of Loi: *"At sino namang matutuwa kung kasama mo ay ganitong klaseng mukha* (And who will enjoy this place if you have a companion who has a face like this)?" He pointed to the former First Lady.

"You know what Loi did, Mon? *Napakabait niya.* She just smiled!" my spy said.

The source said all of them felt very uncomfortable.

***

Now, you know why Loi was smiling when the First Family was leaving Malacañang aboard a launch while Erap and the children were crying or were melancholy.

She probably thought all her troubles, the public insults that her husband threw at her, were over.

Erap is lucky to have a wife like Loi. *Kahit saan masuwerte talaga ang kumag.*

***

No matter what his detractors say, Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza will remain as the Philippine National Police chief.

Why? Because there's not a shred of evidence that he was involved in any irregularities in the past.

He is a De Villa, Ramos and Cory boy. He is a Batangueño like Executive Secretary Renato de Villa.

He is also apparently a recommendee of former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Cory Aquino because he played a key role in the defeat of the rebel forces in the 1989 putsch.

Mendoza, who was Bulacan commander of the Philippine Constabulary at the time, blocked the entry into Metro Manila of the forces of then Cagayan Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and then Col. Reynaldo Berroya. They were to have reinforced the soldiers led by then Col. Gringo Honasan.

President Macapagal needs a loyal man like Mendoza at the Philippine National Police.

***

It seems every business concern is suffering from the economic crunch. Radio station dzRH, the country's No. 1, is not an exception.

That's why it had to retrench 12 of its personnel, according to Hadrian V. Arroyo, executive vice president of the Manila Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) which runs dzRH.

"It's not 179, Mon. That's the number of our stations nationwide. We are only retrenching 12 who are the least performing assets. But they will go with all the benefits accruing to them," Arroyo said.

Metro police chiefs tasked to enforce traffic regulations

BY ALCUIN PAPA

THE POLICE will now be literally out in the streets.

The Metro Manila Development Authority has tapped the chief of police of the different cities to take supervision of traffic rules enforcement in the streets of Metro Manila.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos said he met with the police chiefs and the mayors of Metro Manila last Saturday to flesh out the transfer of responsibilities.

He noted that to solve the traffic problem, police should assist the MMDA traffic enforcers.

"There has been a failure of implementation and enforcement because of several commands," Abalos told media yesterday.

Based on the new setup, Abalos said the not-so-ubiquitous MMDA traffic enforcers will be "absorbed" by the police and would now take orders from the police chiefs.

"Now, there will only be one uniformed standard in command," Abalos said.

Abalos said all policemen, from the lowly rookie cop to the chief of police, will now be involved in the enforcement of traffic rules and regulations, including the issuance of traffic tickets for violations.

Before the transfer of duties is effected, Abalos said all policemen will undergo a seminar on traffic enforcement.

He added that as per the agreement with the police chiefs, the new responsibilities of policemen would not curtail their other crime-fighting duties.

Abalos said the MMDA plans to set up a license redemption center in each city, effectively decentralizing the redemption from the MMDA central office in Makati to the local government units.

The new policy will be contained in a memorandum of agreement that Abalos and the Metro mayors are due to sign this week.

The MMDA, through some 3,000 traffic enforcers, had been in charge of enforcing the traffic rules in the city's streets.

As part of Abalos' campaign to ease traffic in the metropolis, he said he will ask the Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board to review the policies of issuing franchises to transportation outfits that do not have garage.

He noted that if an outfit does not have any garage, it will park its vehicles on the streets. These parked cars on the streets, Abalos said, contribute to the clogging up of traffic.

The MMDA chair also said he would intensify the campaign against illegal terminals and illegal vendors.

Abalos said they have already made 13,000 arrests in connection with illegal terminals and illegal vendors.

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TUESDAY, February 6 912-8983

Erap group fails anew, vows to bring in millions

By Agnes E. Donato

A RALLY at the Pinaglabanan Shrine in San Juan meant to show support and demand justice for ousted President Estrada yesterday failed to gather enough support. But organizers vowed to bring in millions from the provinces in a succeeding rally.

This was the second time a pro-Estrada rally was cancelled due to lack of supporters.

The "Samahang Erap Rally," which had for its theme "*Lumabas at makiisa para sa katarungan*" was also meant to restore Estrada to power.

The botched rally was first scheduled at 2 p.m. on Saturday, but it was called off when only a handful of people showed up.

The rally was reset for yesterday, but the expected hordes of supporters also did not show up.

In a phone interview, Annie Anglo, a staff member of the Samahang Erap Movement, said her group could have easily mobilized some 4,000 people had the organizers decided to push through with the Saturday rally.

But she admitted that the protest action—the pro-Erap movement's version of Edsa People Power 2—had to be put off because of "lack of preparations."

Anglo said that once organizers have finalized plans for the rally, they expect "millions of Estrada supporters" to come from nearby provinces to call for justice for the deposed chief executive.

But she refused to elaborate on the plans of Samahang Erap and said she and her colleagues were just being cautious.

"Our phones are being wiretapped," she said. "It could jeopardize our plans if spies of the (Macapagal) government learned of our activities."

Anglo said pro-Estrada groups have also been advised to be careful, especially after President Macapagal declared she would "crush" those who would try to destabilize her administration.

A week after former President Corazon Aquino and Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin led a prayer rally attended by thousands at the Edsa Shrine in November, pro-Estrada supporters got back by staging a similar rally where about a million El Shaddai members participated.

Even after his unceremonious ouster two months later, Estrada still claimed that the poor were behind him.

Speaking before some 5,000 followers from the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, Estrada maintained that he had just gone on leave and Ms Macapagal was serving as president in an acting capacity.

PARUSAHAN!
GUILTY
BAYAN
SIGAW NG MGA KABATAAN ARESTUHIN SI ERAP! -SCMP-3KP-
KRIMINAL!
GUILTY
BAYAN

WHILE leaders of Pro-Erap groups wait in vain for supporters in San Juan, cause-oriented groups rally in front of the Office of the Ombudsman for the conviction of the deposed President. ERIK ARAZAS

Erap talk spurs drinkers to murder each other

By Alcuin Papa

POLITICS and alcohol do not mix.

When talk turned to whether ousted President Estrada should go to jail for his alleged crimes during a drinking session in Muntinlupa City, the participants turned on each other with knives.

Manuel Racellis, 48, a widower and a contractor, and his employee Mario Ibañez, 37, both of 41 Interior Ilaya Street, Barangay Alabang in Muntinlupa, died from several stab wounds in the body after they attacked each other with knives over their argument regarding Estrada.

Ibañez's brother Bobby, 35, who waded through the fray, is in critical condition at the Alabang Medical Center.

Investigation by SPO4 Armando Alambro of the Muntinlupa police Criminal Investigation Division showed the men were having a drink when Racellis brought up the possibility of a court handing Estrada the death penalty.

Racellis, who favored punishment for Estrada, stressed that the deposed president should be charged and sentenced for his crimes and face the death penalty, police said.

This angered the pro-Estrada Ibañez, and the two men exchanged angry words until Racellis pulled out a knife and stabbed Ibañez dead.

Ibañez's brother Bobby came in and stabbed Racellis who also stabbed him back, police said.

Police are still investigating the incident and are trying to determine if Bobby Ibañez could be charged for the death of Racellis.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, February 6, 2000
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gen 1:20—2:4**
Gospel: **Mk 7:1-13**

One day the Pharisees gathered around Jesus and with them were some teachers of the Law who had just come from Jerusalem.

They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their meal with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. Now the Pharisees, and in fact, all the Jews, never eat without washing their hands for they follow the tradition received from their ancestors. Nor do they eat anything when they come from the market without first washing themselves. And there are many other traditions they observe, for example, the ritual washing of cups, pots and plates.

So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders, but eat with unclean hands?" Jesus answered, "You, shallow peo-ple! How well Isaiah prophesied of you when he wrote: *This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, for what they teach are only human rules.* You even put aside the commandment of God to hold fast to human tradition."

And Jesus commented, "You have a fine way of disregarding the commandment of God in order to implant your own tradition. For example, Moses said: *Do your duty to your father and your mother,* and: *Whoever curses his father or his mother is to be put to death.* But according to you someone could say to his father or mother: 'I already declared *Corban*, which means "offered to God," what you could have expected from me.' In this case, you no longer let him do anything for a father or mother. So you nullify the word of God through the tradition you have handed on. And you do many other things like that."

Commentary

Only a fool buys a piece of candy, eats the wrapper and throws away the candy. This is the kind of foolishness that Jesus has observed in the religious leaders of his time. They get lost in the non-essentials, in the trappings of human tradition and acts of piety. They impose these as timeless dogmas and forget almost totally about justice, mercy, and compassion. Every now and then, we need to be shaken by the straightforward messages of the great prophets of doom like Amos, Isaiah, Micah. We need to be reminded of Jeremiah who denounced his people's meaningless fetish for a temple sacrifice that was totally oblivious of social justice.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS (JUDICIAL ETHICS)—Behavior of judiciary personnel—The conduct and behavior of every one connected with an office charged with the dispensation of justice, from the presiding judge to the sheriff and to the lowliest clerk should be circumscribed with the heavy burden of responsibility. For every employee of the judiciary should be an example of integrity, uprightness and honesty. Even a court janitor is as much duty-bound to serve with highest degree of responsibility as all other public officers. Respondent's act undeniable constitutes a misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service. The court is looked up to by people with high respect and is regarded a sacred place where litigants are heard, rights and conflicts settled and justice solemnly dispensed. Misbehavior within and around the vicinity diminishes its sanctity and dignity. Their conduct must at all times be characterized by, among other things, propriety and decorum so as to earn and keep the public's respect and confidence in the judicial service. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc, Per Curiam,* Merilo-Bedural v. Edroso, A.M. No. 00-1395, October 12, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

MMDA VOW

Metro garbage will not be dumped in provinces

By Amy Bainbridge

METRO Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday he would not clean up Metro Manila's garbage only to dump it in the provinces.

"I do not want our garbage to be thrown or dumped (in) other areas," Abalos said. "Just because I want to save Metro Manila from some sickness brought about by dysentery because of uncollected garbage, I will not pass this to the other provinces.

"When we bring our garbage to other areas, let us see to it that it is sanitized—that is what is taking us so long."

Abalos still declined to say where the new short-term dumpsite would be, but said one would be ready in three to four days, or once foreign technicians have cleared it.

Abalos, who has eight days left to fulfill his promise of clearing Metro Manila's streets, hinted that the new site is in Luzon.

"We are not going to the Visayas and we are definitely not going to Mindanao, and we won't use barges," he said.

Abalos said technicians had already approved roads surrounding the new site. He said they would start preparing the area, bringing in equipment to chop or shred the rubbish. A conveyer would be brought in to sort out the rubbish.

The MMDA chief stressed the site would be "no landfill" and "no dumpsite."

He added that the agency would be strictly "composting, segregating and recycling" the gsarbage, with the help of "foreign technology."

According to Abalos, the garbage problem is compounded by several legal cases which he inherited when he took over the post 11 days ago.

The court cases and restraining orders have hampered MMDA's search for a permanent dumpsite for Metro Manila's garbage.

ABALOS

"I did not only inherit the garbage problem of Manila, I likewise inherited several cases that tied up my hands," he said.

Residents of Antipolo City, San Mateo in Rizal, Semirara Island in Antique and the Aetas of Capas, Tarlac, have all successfully warded off MMDA efforts to dump in their backyards.

About 120,000 tons of garbage now litter city streets. Metro Manila produces some 6,000 tons of garbage daily.

A garbage summit last Friday drew scores of non-government organizations, firms and individuals, all vying for a piece of the P1.9-billion waste management budget for Metro Manila.

Former MMDA assistant general manager Gary Cayton said the garbage summit was just a waste of time.

But Abalos took the occasion to discuss the importance of segregation.

"We are mounting an educational campaign (for segregation) this week and I will be meeting with all barangay captains of Metro Manila," he said. "Segregation has to be followed and implemented."

Chinese who shot dead pedicab driver charged with murder

By Jerome Aning

THE SON of a Chinese businessman has been charged with murder and ordered jailed without bail by the Manila prosecutor's office for shooting dead a pedicab driver in Sta. Cruz during a petty traffic altercation before dawn last Saturday.

Chief Insp. Juanito Tatuban, head of the city police's homicide section, said Lawrence Lim Ching, 24, of 1639 Sampaguita St., Sta. Cruz, and his younger brother have an outstanding arrest warrant for another murder case filed in 1999, which also stemmed from a petty traffic dispute.

Two homicide investigators also think Ching was behind three other shootings in the city, Tatuban said. But he refused to reveal the details of the cases.

Tatuban told the INQUIRER that they are also confirming if Ching was the elusive president, if not one of the top officials, of the True Brown Style Gang, a dreaded street fraternity in Tondo, which is said to be engaged in various crimes ranging from robbery to murder-for-hire.

Pedicab driver Jonald dela Cruz, 18, of 1681 Old Antipolo St., Sta. Cruz, died at the Ospital ng Maynila after he was allegedly shot in the chest by Ching during a traffic altercation on Jose Abad Santos Avenue corner Solis Street in Tondo.

SPO4 Victor Batara of the WPD Station 7 arrested Ching, who was in a Toyota Corolla (NFX-505), after a brief chase on Abad Santos Street.

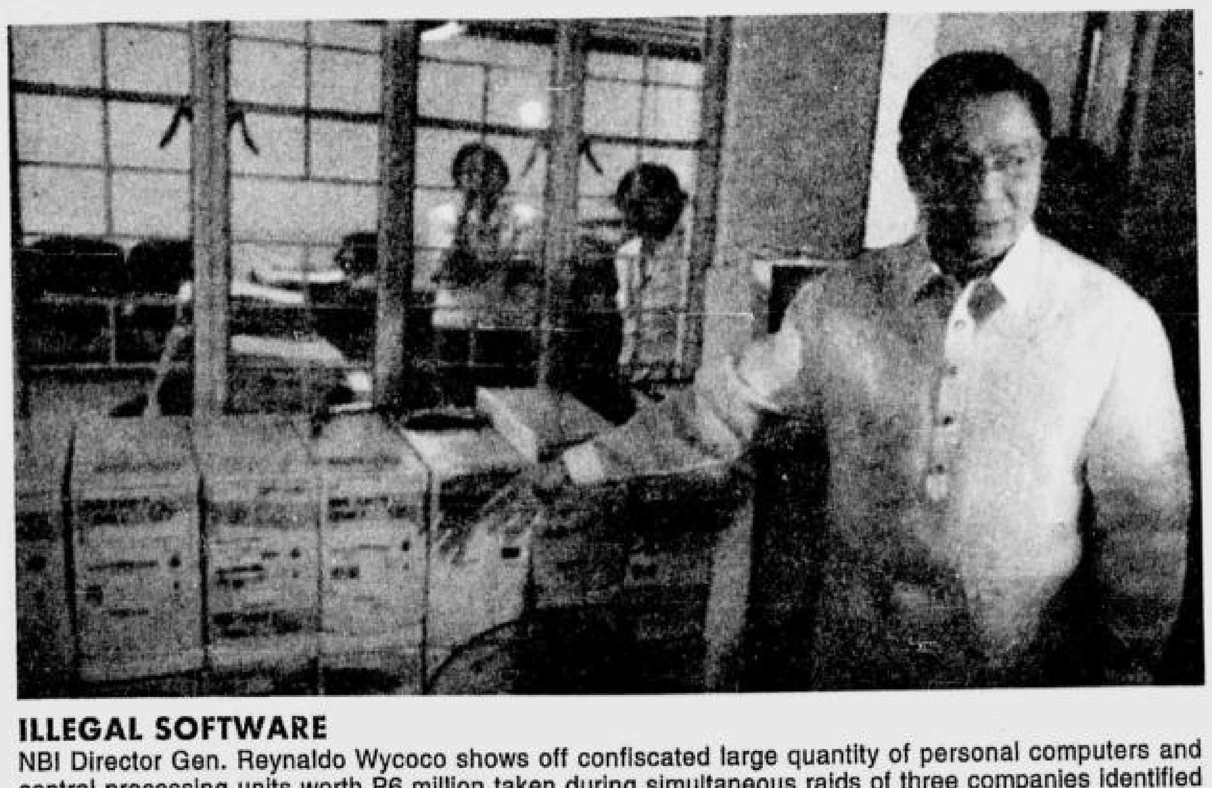
Investigation showed the quarrel erupted after Dela Cruz's sidecar and Ching's Toyota nearly hit each other as the two vehicles were about to cross Abad Santos.

Ching blocked the pedicab's path, alighted and confronted Dela Cruz, police said.

After exchanging expletives, Ching purportedly drew his gun and shot Dela Cruz.

SPO4 Batara and SPO3 Esmeraldo Cruz were on duty at nearby Station 7 when they heard the gunshot. They quickly boarded a mobile patrol unit and caught Ching.

The gun used in the shooting, a .9mm-caliber pistol, has not been found and Ching is believed to have discarded the weapon during the chase.



ILLEGAL SOFTWARE
NBI Director Gen. Reynaldo Wycoco shows off confiscated large quantity of personal computers and central processing units worth P6 million taken during simultaneous raids of three companies identified as Data Solutions, Global Holdings and International Data Management. These firms were engaged in illegal copying and reproduction of Microsoft software programs. CALOY SANCHEZ

Poll bet hits back at foes on cleaning of city voters' list

A CONGRESSIONAL candidate of Las Piñas City assailed yesterday attempts by his detractors to discredit a cleaning of the voters' list in the city.

Tony Tamayo, the Liberal Party's chair in the city, reacted to earlier news reports in which residents had called for his investigation before the Commission on Elections for allegedly causing the disenfranchisement of voters in the city.

In a statement sent to media, Tamayo said the move was a "desperate attempt to stop the voters' list cleansing proceedings in Las Piñas City."

He added that the campaign to discredit him was instigated by "local officials who are protected by a "well-entrenched political dynasty who is resorting to harassment and disinformation campaign."

"The presence of illegal registrants in the voters' list will deny Las Piñas City of clean, orderly, honest and peaceful elections," Tamayo stressed.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS

SM CENTERPOINT 7140522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAUAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
3	DTS	WHAT WOMEN WANTS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DUDE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	WHAT WOMEN WANT
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
11	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	102 DALMATIANS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	WHAT WOMEN WANT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	DTS	102 DALMATIANS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS
7	DTS	WHAT WOMEN WANT
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
10	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DUDE

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WHAT WOMEN WANT
9	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
3	ULTRA SURROUND	NAGHUHUMIYAW
4	ULTRA SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGATANG PUSO
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	RED PLANET

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGATANG PUSO
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	KANGKONG
8	ULTRA SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
3	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

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2 WHAT WOMEN WHAT	2 VERTICAL LIMIT In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 THE YARDS In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 WHAT WOMEN WANT In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 VERTICAL LIMIT In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BOOBA	3 VERTICAL LIMIT THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 WHAT WOMEN WANT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 VERTICAL LIMIT In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 THE YARDS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 VERTICAL LIMIT	4 SUSAN'S PLAN (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	Art Film	4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage	4 VERTICAL LIMIT In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 102 DALMATIANS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
2 (SDDS)	THE YARDS
3 (DTS)	102 DALMATIANS
4 GOLD (DTS)	DUDE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
6 GOLD (SDDS)	CLOSED
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
8 [illegible]	TABI TABI PO
9 [illegible]	BOOBA
10 [illegible]	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TABI TABI PO
2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
3 (DTS)	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	BOOBA
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	TABI TABI PO

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BOOBA
2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
3	TABI TABI PO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VERTICAL LIMIT
5	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
3	TABI TABI PO
4	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	RESERVE
6	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	BOOBA
8	102 DALMATIANS

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
2	AKIN KA NGAYONG GABI
3	PIRANHA 3
4	WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00
5	
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	TUKSO NG PANAHON
2	ALINDOG NI BARBARA
3	UNDER COVER KID
4	WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	MEET THE PARENT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	VERTICAL LIMIT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
A	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BOOBA
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	RESERVE
4	TABI TABI PO
5	SYOTA NG BAYAN
6	DUDE
7 (DTS)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
8 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
9 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
3	TABI TABI PO
4	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	BOOBA
3	TABI TABI PO
4 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
5	SYOTA NG BAYAN
6 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
7 (DTS)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
8	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
5 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
6	BOOBA
7 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	WHAT WOMEN WANT

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	CLOSED
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)	BOOBA
4	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
6 (DOLBY)	102 DALMATIANS
7 (DOLBY)	TABI TABI PO

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ANOTHER 9 1/2 WEEKS
Lords	TABI TABI PO
Jennet	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
4	VERTICAL LIMIT

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	SYOTA NG BAYAN

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	TABI TABI PO
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
4	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5	BOOBA

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
4	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
5	BOOBA
6	VERTICAL LIMIT

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS)	BOOBA
3 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	TABI TABI PO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
3	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS)	TABI TABI PO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS)	TABI TABI PO
4	REMEMBER THE TITANS
5	BOOBA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	VERTICAL LIMIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	TABI TABI PO
3	VERTICAL LIMIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	BOOBA
3	MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	LITTLE NICKY
2	TABI TABI PO
3	VERTICAL LIMIT

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
3	BOOBA
4	TABI TABI PO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS)	TABI TABI PO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	TABI TABI PO

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BOOBA
2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
3	TABI TABI PO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	BOOBA
3	HIGHLANDER
4	REMEMBER THE TITANS

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
3	TABI TABI PO
4	VERTICAL LIMIT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	RED PLANET
2	BOOBA
3	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS EX)	VERTICAL LIMIT

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2. TABI TABI PO
3. WHAT WOMEN WANT
4. 102 DALMATIANS
5. SYOTA NG BAYAN
6. WHAT WOMEN WANT
7. BOOBA

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2. SYOTA NG BAYAN
3. 102 DALMATIANS
4. WHAT WOMEN WANT
5. TABI TABI PO
6. BOOBA

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453

1. REMEMBER THE TITANS
2. BALAHIBONG PUSA
3. LITTLE NICKY
4. HIGHLANDER
5. PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
6. HOT SPOT

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE YARDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOOBA
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	VERTICAL LIMIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SYOTA NG BAYAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SYOTA NG BAYAN
MIRAMAR	LARO SA BAGA / PORNOGRAPHER
ODEON	VERTICAL LIMIT
ODEON-2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
ROBEN	SYOTA NG BAYAN
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	WHIPPED
TIMES	READY TO RUMBLE / CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	SYOTA NG BAYAN
QUEZON-1	TABI TABI PO
REMAR	SYOTA NG BAYAN
REMAR-2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	SYOTA NG BAYAN
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CINEMA-2	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WHIPPED
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-6	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	BOOBA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
CINEMA-12	DUDE
CINEMA-14	THE YARDS
CINEMA-15	SYOTA NG BAYAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-3	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-4	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-5	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	THE YARDS

Director's forum, festival open at UP Film Center

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Film Center and the UP Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts will present "UP-Shots 6—Film Artists from Diliman," Feb. 5-8 at the UP Film Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

The series will opened with the gala screening of Joel Lamangan's "Deathrow." Other movies to be shown are "Soltera," "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "Anak," "Biyaheng Langit," "Laro sa Baga," and "Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya."

On Feb. 7, there will be the important forum on feature filmmakers. Gracing the forum are Lamangan, Tikoy Aguiluz, Chito Roño, Maryo J. De los Reyes, Rory Quintos, Jerry Sineneng, Joyce Bernal and Jeffrey Jeturian.

On Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., the UP Film Center will host the premiere of Jeturian's "Tuhog" (director's cut version).

For inquiries, call Nonoy Lauzon or Lally Lacaba at 925-0286, 926-3640, or 926-2722.

The . . .

(From page A18)

ABS-CBN management about this."

TV treats

TODAY on Viva Cinema at 8 p.m., "Honey, My Love So Sweet" with teen stars **Antoinette Taus**, **Dingdong Dantes**, **Kim delos Santos**, **Dino Guevarra**, etc. On Star Movies at 9 p.m., the film on view is **Robert Redford**'s "The Horse Whisperer," starring Redford, **Kristin Scott Thomas** and **Sam Neill**.

Wednesday, Feb. 7: On Star Movies at 7 p.m., "Dick Tracy" stars **Warren Beatty**, **Madonna** and **All Pacino**. On Viva Cinema at 8 p.m., "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa" topbills **Sharon Cuneta** and **Gabby Concepcion**. At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Angels of the City" shows what happens when two college co-eds get caught in the middle of a street war. The movie's young stars include **Kelly Galinda** and **Michael Ferrare**.

Quote, unquote

COLETTE: What a wonderful life I've had! I only wish I'd realized it sooner.

Eleanor Roosevelt: Life was meant to be lived, and curiosity must be kept alive.

Ruth Rendell: Some say life is the thing, but I prefer reading!

William James: The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast you.

Gertrude Stein: You have to know what you want to get.

Richard Bach: Here is the test to find whether your mission on earth is finished. If you're still alive, it isn't!

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8:25 PM - What Women Want
10:45 PM - What Women Want

PROOF OF LIFE
Meg Ryan / Russel Crowe
opens Wednesday February 7

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula! A Journal of Philippine Cinema and learn more about Comedy King Dolphy and other Filipino artist, Movie fans & idols.

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

The movies they're making

IT'S BEEN quite a while since we've seen a **Sylvester Stallone** movie. Has he been put out to pasture along with such has-beens as **Demi Moore, Peter O'Toole, Jane Fonda** and **Kris Kristoffersn**?

Not so fast. Stallone is back in front of the movie camera (and so is Kristofferson, how about that?) in "Eye See You," a suspense thriller directed by **Jim Gillespie**, who megged the teen chiller, "I Know What You Did Last Summer."

The idea must be for Gillespie to generate new, trendy excitement for Stallone's latest bid to recapture some of his lost stellar gloss—and gross.

"Eye See You" is set in a remote detoxification center for police officers. Stallone plays disgraced FBI agent **Jack Malloy**, whose drinking problem threatens to end his once-promising career. His dependence on alcohol has escalated after the murders of his girlfriend and former partner by a maniacal cop killer.

Along with nine other troubled cops (played by Kristofferson, **Tom Berenger, Jeffrey Wright**, etc.), Malloy is exiled to the isolated clinic as a last chance at redemption.

But the therapeutic facility soon becomes a nightmarish prison, as Malloy is haunted by disturbing voices and grisly visions. When a big snowstorm cuts off the clinic from the outside world, patients begin to turn up dead amidst suspicious circumstances.

It becomes clear that there is a killer among them, and any one of them could be the next victim!

For his part, **Nicolas Cage** next essays a romantic drama, "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," opposite **Penelope Cruz**, whose success in "Woman On Top" has made her a hot property in Hollywood.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"Captain Corelli's Mandolin" is an epic tale (screenplay by **Shawn Slovo**, and direction by **John Madden**, the maker of "Shakesspeare In Love") set amid the Italian occupation of Greece during World War II. Its theme is the enduring hope of love despite the devastating brutality of war.

Corelli initially alienates the populace on the island of Cephallonia. Cruz plays Pelagia, the daughter of the village doctor. At first, she's offended by the Italian soldier's behavior, but she slowly warms up to him as they are forced to share her father's home.

When Pelagia's fiancé heads off to war, her friendship with Corelli grows even stronger. His fondness for the village's vibrant community causes him to question his reasons for fighting.

As the war draws even closer, Corelli and Pelagia are forced to choose between their allegiance to their respective countries, and the growing love they feel for one another, which must overcome tremendous odds to assert itself.

Finally, **Russell Crowe** and **Ed Harris** costar in the drama, "A Beautiful Mind," directed by **Ron Howard** from a script by **Akiva Goldman**, based on **Sylvia Nassar**'s novel.

Inspired by a true story, the film is about **John Forbes Nash Jr.**, a mathematical genius who goes from the heights of fame to the depths of depravity.

He makes an astonishing discovery early in his career and stands on the brink of international acclaim. But the handsome and arrogant Nash soon finds himself on a painful and harrowing journey of self-discovery.

Ultimately, he triumphs over tragedy and, late in life, finally receives the recognition that has always eluded him.

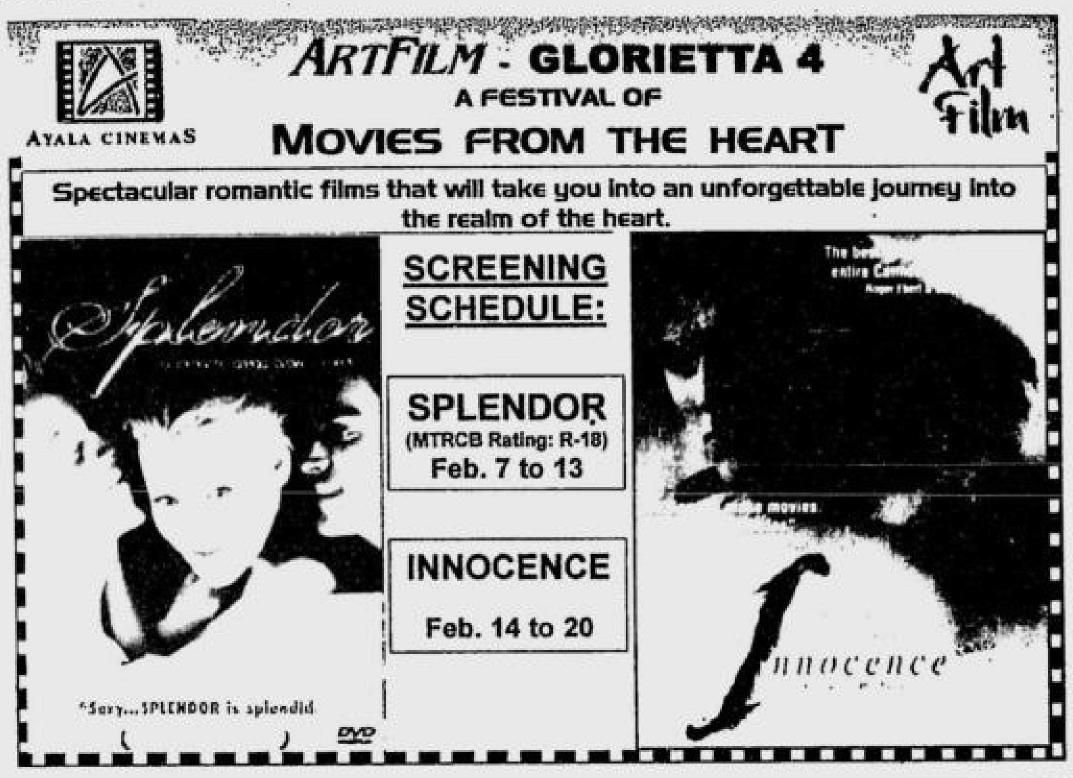
Feedback

FROM **J.A. Valdes** of Las Pinas City: "What's wrong with ABS-CBN's schedule programming? I notice that, after 'TV Patrol,' the schedules vary from day to day, anywhere between five to 30 minutes off the screening schedules announced in the papers or by Channel 2 itself.

"I'm irritated because I sometimes surf channels for other shows or tape shows on Channel 2 or another channel, but I miss some parts because the scheduling is often late and unpredictable.

"If they think that they are the biggest station in the country, they should start thinking that their biggest responsibility is the small but vital mater of schedule. I hope you can call the attention of

THE MOVIE/A17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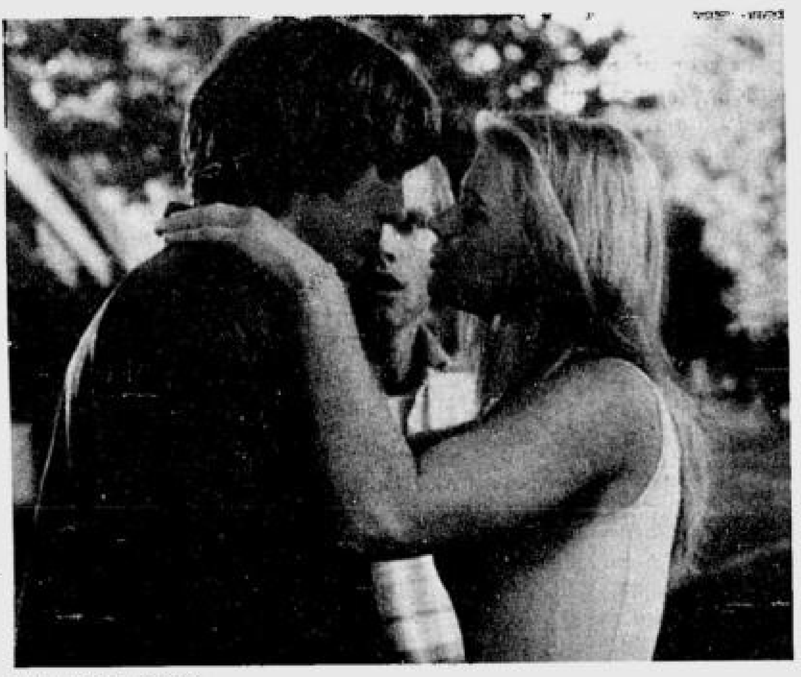

DREAM GIRL

Dude Jesse played by TV heartthrob Ashton Kutcher prepares for a kiss from his dream girl, Christie Boner, played by the gorgeous Kristy Swanson. The scene is from the rip-roaring adventure "Dude, Where's My Car?," where Kutcher and Seann William Scott are cast as dudes who lost their car and their memory after one incredible evening. So they must now retrace their steps to find out what they did little knowing they are in for the ride of their lives. "Dude, Where's My Car?" is a Twentieth Century Fox production locally distributed by Viva International Pictures.

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4 WHAT WOMEN WANT 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	5 VERTICAL LIMIT 1:15, 3:50, 6:25, 9:00	6 THE YARDS 12:00, 2:00, 4:00

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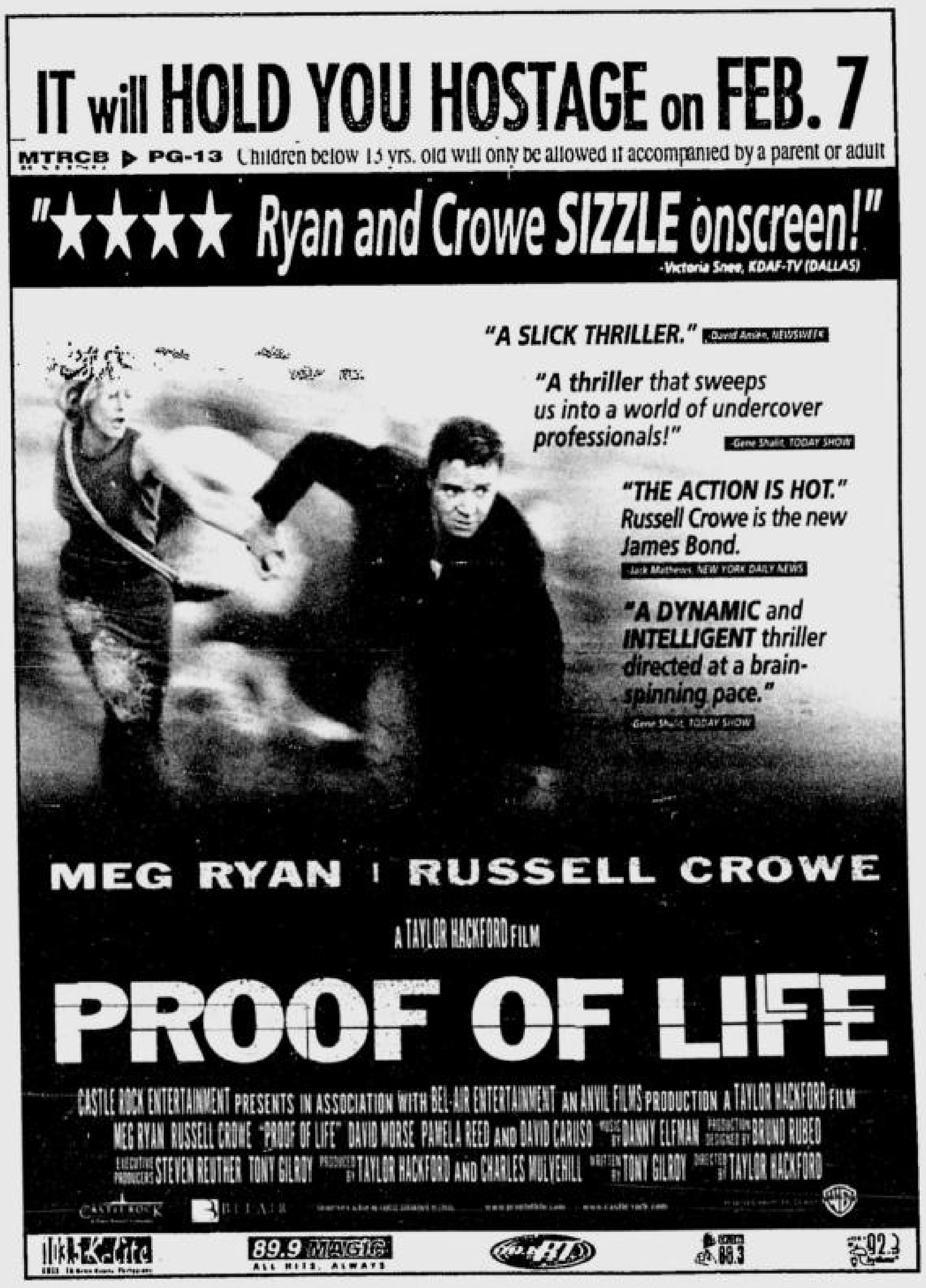
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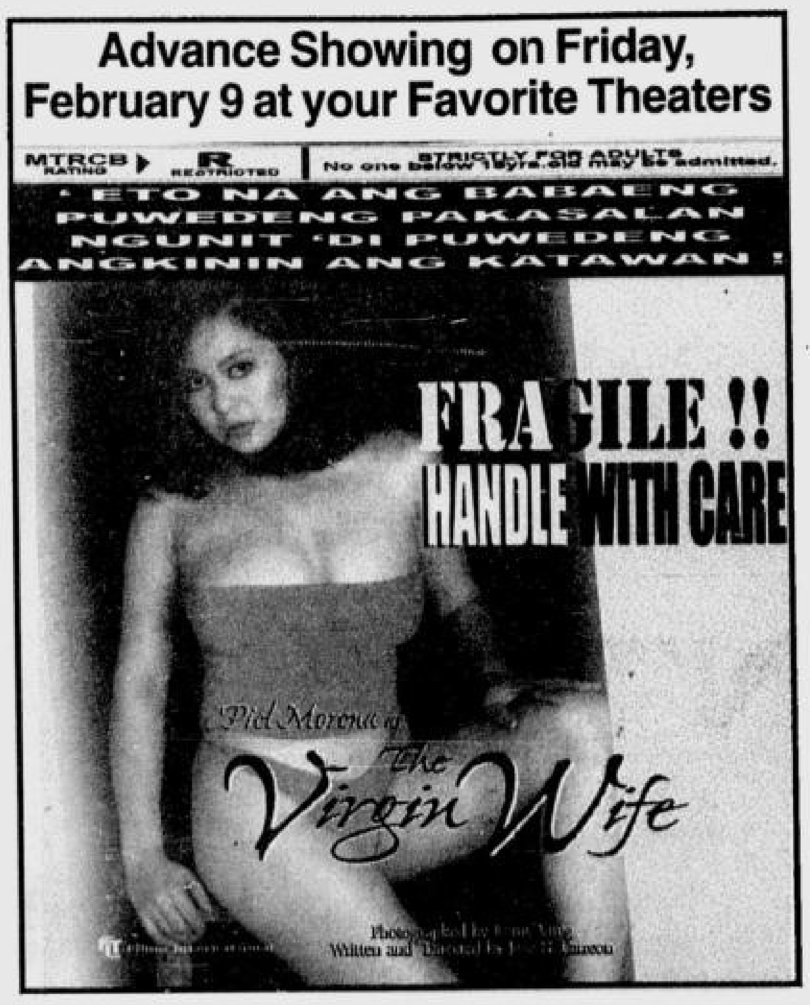
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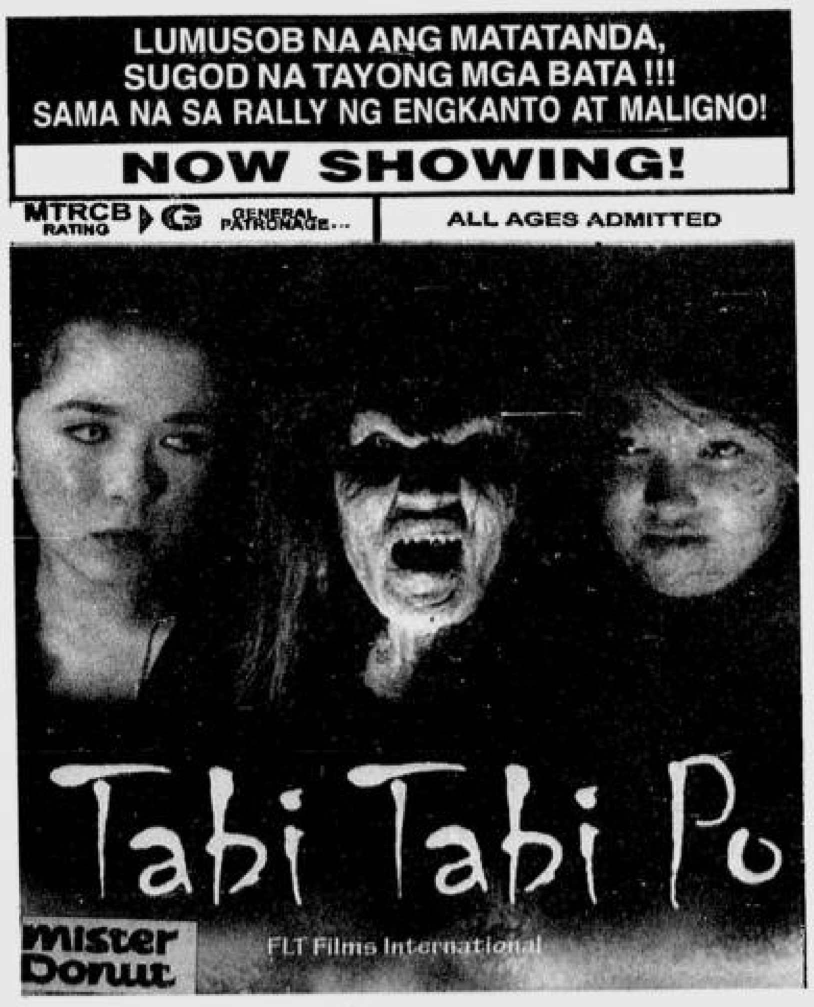
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January inflation highest in 22 months

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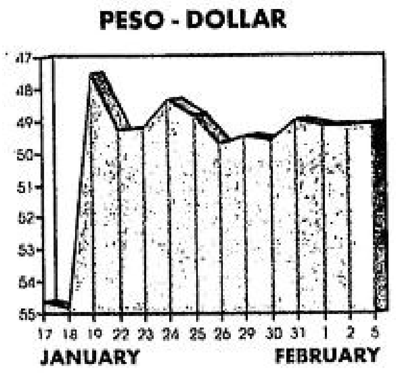


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱49.11 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 5, 2001

¥115.78 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 115.78 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 5, 2001

GOLD:$266.70/267.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 5, 2001

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

INFLATION in January rose to its highest rate in 22 months due to food and utility price increases and the weaker peso caused by the political crisis that raged over most of last month.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the inflation rate rose to 6.9 percent year-on-year in January from 6.6 percent in December. Inflation averaged 4.4 percent in 2000 and the government has set a target of 6 to 7 percent for this year.

January's inflation was in line with the market's expectation, but well above a forecast by the new Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, who said late last week he did not expect the rate to exceed 5.5 percent.

Last month's inflation report was marked by relatively high food and utility prices, up 5.1 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively.

The January inflation was well within analysts' and government's target range of 6.5 to 7 percent for the month. Former economic planning chief Felipe Medalla had predicted that despite the sharp peso fall, last month's inflation would not exceed 7 percent.

Economists believed inflation would start to moderate from around April due to the impact of the stronger peso and the brighter outlook for the economy following last month's ouster of former President Estrada.

Swelling street protests forced Estrada to leave office Jan. 20 on corruption allegations. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, his vice president, replaced him.

It was in early January that the peso had dropped to an all-time low of 55.75 to the dollar as the people lost confidence in the impeachment trial against then President Estrada. But the local currency has since recovered and is now trading at the 49 levels.

Inflation in Metro Manila increased to 7.8 percent from 7.5 percent in December while inflation in areas outside the metropolis rose to 6.5 percent from 6.3 percent in December.

Month-on-month inflation was slightly higher at 0.8 percent in January from 0.7 percent in December due to price increases in food, beverage and tobacco. The rate for housing and repairs also moved up to 0.8 percent from 0.7 percent.

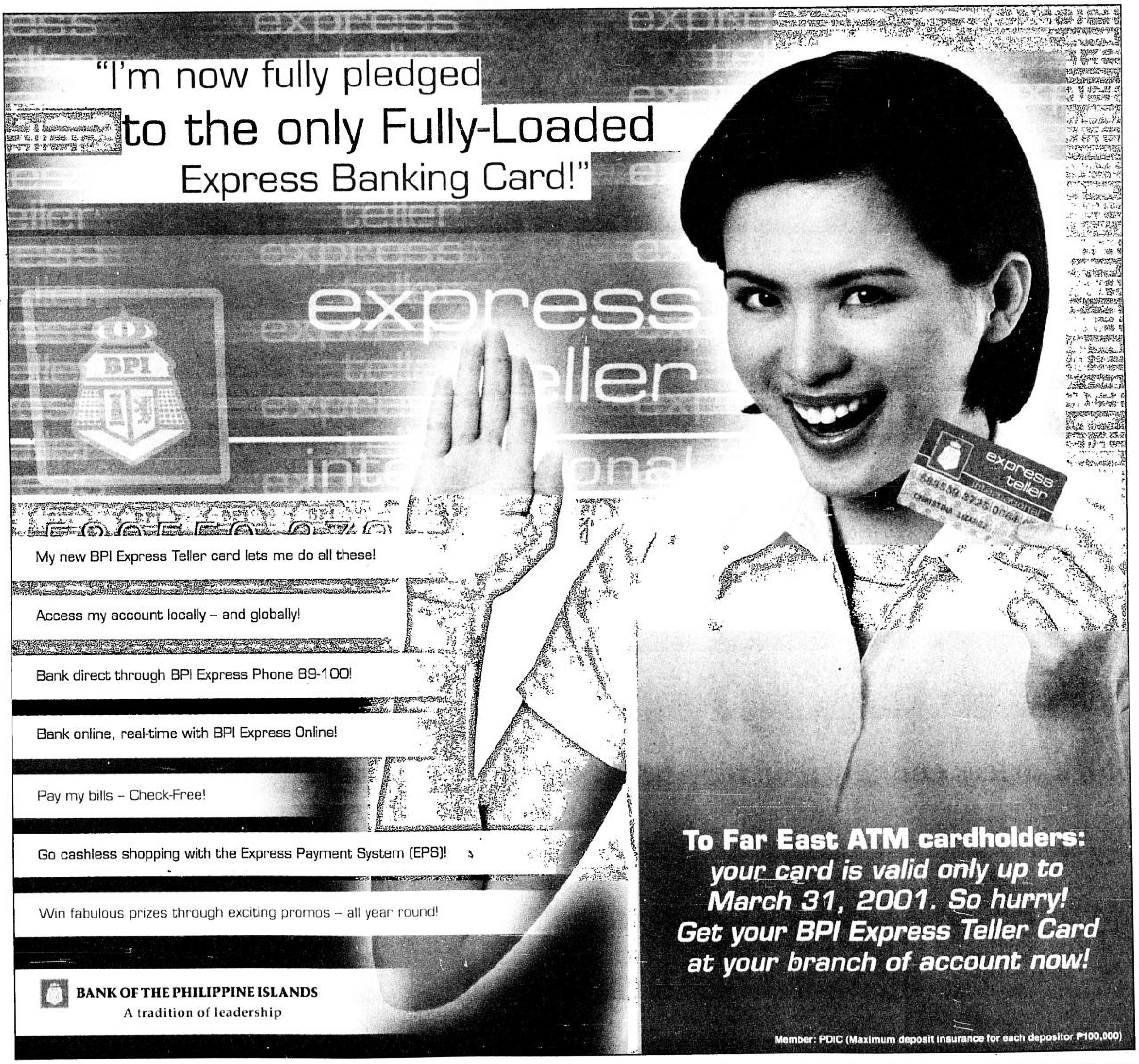
On the other hand, clothing slowed down to 0.4 percent from 0.6 percent; fuel, light and water, to 0.4 percent from 1.8 percent; and services, 0.4 percent from one percent.

The biggest inflation-related fear is a predicted food-supply squeeze from a drought triggered by the El Niño weather disturbance in the second half of the year. Government economists said they did not believe this would be severe.

Economists said that, despite January's high inflation rate, the government's 6 to 7 percent target was achievable.

They noted that moves to bring down local interest rates amid the stabilizing exchange rate would help temper inflation in the coming few months.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has slashed its key overnight rates by another 50 basis points to bring its overnight borrowing and lending rate to 11.5 percent and 13.5 percent, respectively, or only half a point away from their levels during the pre-"Juetengate" scandal. *With a report from AP*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Life's not a bowl of cheering

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT WAS a first for this cute administration. Gloriaetta finally gave a big speech in a big ballroom in a big hotel before a big gathering of big business. That was last Friday, and that was in Makati—but where else?

And so the organizers billed it as *the* event. Gloriaetta would spell out her economic program. If I fell asleep in the event, forgive me, for now I remember not a word about any program. I probably missed the best part of the speech.

That's why I asked the Palace for a copy. I'm afraid I was given the wrong speech. It turned out that, based on the Palace copy, Gloriaetta never said anything about an economic program or even just half of it. Not even an economic "prog"!

* * *

AND so, what's the lesson from *the* big event? Well, big business believed that the country needed an economic program so much, Gloriaetta had to defend her Cabinet appointments instead. She asked what's so terrible about them. None yet, ma'am, so far.

We do not have an economic program, period. Even the promise of Gloriaetta for "transparency" cannot pass for a program. Today, what we have for an economic program is the newly promoted Chief Executive's set of, aah, well, "beliefs."

Gloriaetta believes in a moral government, for instance, and so she intends to lead by example. Everybody, all together now: Hep, hep, hooray! What's this, cheering competition? Sadly, as my Apong Oning used to say, life is not a bowl of cheering.

* * *

YET, on teevee last Friday, business executives gave the best performance of a cheering squad. They could not help but marvel at their newfound "confidence". Oh my, how we love to eat their "confidence" down here! Just keep it coming!

From the very start, you see, big business did not have trust and confidence in the leadership of ousted President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, aka the man named Band . . . Wrist Band. So we could not have "confidence" for breakfast. We could only have real food.

Today big business talks about the return of confidence. Why? Well, it's mainly because Wrist Band is gone. For according to big business, the only problem was Wrist Band, and the only solution was his ouster. And so they sent him home.

* * *

CONFIDENCE may be back in business, but it's not because of anything that Gloriaetta did as yet, including her super promise of being a moral leader by example that we have yet to see. It's because Wrist Band smelled and so he was trashed. *Basura, ba!*

But like anything in politics, business confidence can change sides faster than the so-called allies of Wrist Band. Well, San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.'s NPC is gone, and former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara's LDP is going.

The only one remaining in Wrist Band's LAMP coalition is his own party, PMP. This has himself and former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado. This guy may also not last. He changes side every other day. Not only can he flip-flop, he can also flop-flip.

* * *

THE DANGER is, anyway, the newly instated administration is starting to believe in its own trash-talk as opposition. Months ago, they said the economy already collapsed. And so now, they say a "recovery" can take five years. Translation: Jail Wrist Band!

I don't know if you call it "collapsed" when the economy posts an inflation rate of 7 percent, the current account surplus amounts to $7 billion, interest rates are going at 10 to 14 percent, and the growth rate is maintained at more than 3 percent.

All right, Gloriaetta's big problem is the budget deficit. The spending program of Wrist Band can result in a P215-billion deficit this year. Gloriaetta wants it at only P146 billion. Look at that, a P146-billion deficit! And they think it's an achievement!

* * *

THAT, to me, is hardly worth cheering for, even if the Makati types are already choking with confidence. Gloriaetta can only pull off the budget trick, if she moonlights as a barber. She must cut spendings. This is bad news for us down here.

In the yearly budget, you see, less than P100 billion can be freely allocated. Meaning, a good part of our tax money is semi-automatically set aside for debts, salaries, and operating costs. Over that P100-billion must fight a lot of interests. Mostly vested.

Guess which big groups end up with big winnings for big shares in the budget pie when big interests like those of cheering big business collide. Definitely not ours! And that's why we must have an economic program. In writing please!

* * *

THE LAST time I ate confidence for snacks, the real estate and the stock market boomed, and money begot more money. I don't know if that's what the Makati crowd still means by confidence today. It's just confidence did not mean much to guys like me down here.

Damn, we didn't have the money to make more money out of this edible confidence, anyway. For me the real estate boom only sent farther away my dream to own my place someday. To think, I was even the most brilliant guy I ever knew!

Gloriaetta said we must eradicate poverty within this decade. How, boss, it's in the "how?" This is usually the point of an economic program. Within this decade, she said. Why, that's roughly coincides with the end of her next "elected" term! Naughty girl.

ECONOMIC HARD TIMES

Hoechst shuts down RP unit

By Elena R. Torrijos

HOECHST Pharma Production Corp. and five other local companies are shutting down.

In its application for dissolution, Hoechst Pharma told the Securities and Exchange Commission that its parent firm, German pharmaceutical giant Hoechst AG, decided to stop producing pharmaceutical products in the Philippines.

The company did not provide an explanation for this decision.

Hoechst Pharma has a paid-up capital of around P39 million. It manufactures, imports, exports, distributes and sells medicinal, chemical and pharmaceutical products.

Multinational pharmaceutical companies have been operating less in the Philippines to take advantage of lower production costs elsewhere in Asia.

In 1999, Abbott Laboratories Inc., Warner-Lambert (Philippines) Inc. and Novartis Healthcare Philippines Inc. trimmed their Philippine operations.

These companies continued to manufacture their products in the country, but did so on toll-manufacturing arrangements with Interphil Laboratories Inc.

Apart from Hoechst Pharma, SEC documents showed that Km 18 Realty Corp., Eiwa Philippines Inc., Bajaw Resources Inc., EAC Transport Inc. and Peoples Service Specialists Inc. had also applied for dissolution.

Km 18 Realty said it had been unable to cope with the local property slump. It reported a paid-up capital of P8 million.

Eiwa Philippines, a computer parts manufacturer, said it was folding up because its principal client, Toshiba Information Equipment Inc., was upgrading or changing its line or production. The company informed the SEC that Toshiba was no longer ordering hard drives that it was producing.

Bajaw Resources had already ceased operations in 1999, but it applied for dissolution only recently.

EAC Transport said it was closing down because EAC Shipping Business, which EAC Transport relied heavily on, was terminating its global operations.

Office services company Peoples Service Specialists explained that most of its key people had their own businesses to maintain and could no longer run the company.

The SEC said all six companies had complied with its requirements for dissolution.

Psi reports 150% surge in earnings

PSI Technologies Holdings Inc., the Nasdaq-listed unit of RFM Corp., said yesterday its net income in 2000 rose by nearly 150 percent year-on-year to $8.1 million on stronger demand for semiconductors.

Net sales grew 46.6 percent to $73.8 million, the company reported in a statement, resulting in a net margin of 11 percent from 6.5 percent in 1999.

RFM president and chief executive Jose Concepcion III said Psi's 46.6-percent sales growth surpassed the industry average of 37 percent.

Psi president and chief executive Arthur Young said the company's net sales for the fourth quarter came in at the high end of estimates it gave the market in December last year.

"Resilient demand for power semiconductors that go into a variety of end markets, and our introduction of some new packages helped us through what was considered as a tough time for everyone in the industry," Young said.

Music subsidiary acquires Singapore portal operator

By Doris C. Dumlao

NEW York-based Music.com Inc., a subsidiary of locally listed semiconductor firm Music Corp., has acquired Singapore's Xudio.com as part of its Asian expansion strategy.

The Internet firm will re-launch Xudio.com as Music.com Asia, a new site that will distribute Music.com brands in 13 countries and in eight languages.

"With access to Music.com's brands, technologies and an array of global partners, Music.com Asia has all the assets required to become the leading Internet music property in Asia," Music.com chair, president and chief executive Phillippe Bellosguardo said.

"This acquisition also offers Music.com's current content, technology and media partners direct access to an extensive international customer base."

Bellosguardo did not disclose how much Music.com paid to take over Xudio.com.

Xudio.com offers free online music, information and resources to Internet users in the Asia-Pacific region, including those in Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines. Its partners include Philmusic.com and Chinese music portal Tom.com.

With headquarters in Singapore, Xudio.com also has offices in Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Newton Cheng, chief executive of Xudio.com, welcomed the opportunity to join forces with Music.com.

"Music.com Asia will be the first point of reference for music in Asia," he said.

Music.com aims to provide the main address for the global music community. It is currently raising $10 million in fresh private capital to roll out its global business-to-business infrastructure, representing the Internet firm's third round of financing.

Music.com started operations in Silicon Valley, but it recently moved to New York. It will be rolled out in over 40 countries and will concentrate on music genres typical to each country.

The company plans to award franchises to strategic partners to stretch out resources for the rollout.

Music.com was earlier planning to list shares on the Nasdaq stock market, but it reconsidered this plan in view of the declining appetite for "dotcom" companies.

According to the company's long-term business model, 70 percent of Music.com's revenues will come from its business-to-business operations, which will include income from subscription services, Web-based transaction fees and CD production.

Another 20 percent will come from franchising fees, while the remaining 10 percent will come from advertising and royalties.

Stock prices end down on high inflation data

STOCKS closed lower in light trade yesterday as news of higher annual consumer prices in January raised fears on the flexibility of the central bank to slash further its rates.

Dealers and fund managers said lack of fresh news in the local market, uncertainty over economic policies to be adopted by the new government and current high PE valuation of local stocks compared with other Asian stocks also dampened sentiment.

The 33-share composite index lost 17.50 points or 1.05 percent to 1,652.08.

Trading was light with some P332.08 million worth of shares changing hands from P615.69 million on Friday. Losers swamped gainers 61 to 26, while the prices of 36 issues were unchanged.

Edison Yap, a fund manager at the Equitable PCI Bank trust, said news that annual inflation in January rose to 6.9 percent from 6.6 percent in December was a factor in the drop of local share prices.

"It (higher inflation rate) may limit the flexibility of the central bank to cut rates," Yap said.

"We're really waiting for market-moving news. It's been almost three weeks since the new government took over and the prolonged delay in filling up (Cabinet) vacancies is capping the strength of the market," said Astro del Castillo of A and A Securities Inc.

"People are hungry for more developments," said Warren Chua of Mercantile Securities Corp.

The central bank cut its key overnight rates by 50 basis points effective today, bringing the total reduction to a total 350 basis points since December. It jacked up its rates by 400 basis points in October in defense of the peso.

"I feel that in order for the local market to make further progress upwards, it has to take out some of the frost," Yap said, adding some players were still cashing gains made when the market rose over 17 percent after the change in government on Jan. 20.

Last week, the main index lost 2.26 percent or 38.60 points from the previous week.

"The Philippines is currently trading at a PE of 21 times while we have Indonesia trading at six times while Thailand is trading at 18 times PE. If you were to make a choice, knowing that some countries are cheaper, you'll go somewhere else," Yap added.

"There's just a lack of fresh news . . . so in light of that there is no reason to hold local stocks for the short-term," he added.

"There is still no clear road map for all the policies that the (new) government will do. How are they going to reduce deficit, how are they going to reform, liberalize the economy?"

President Macapagal-Arroyo has said the government plans to limit its expenditures and improve its tax collection to trim its budget deficit to P146 billion this year from a previous forecast of P225 billion.

Arroyo was sworn into office after Joseph Estrada was forced to step down after a popular revolt. *Reuters*

COUNTRY SHARES
As of February 6, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	1,600,000	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	350,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	125,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	300,000	350,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	380,000	400,000/500,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST	-	150,000
FANTASY WORLD	-	Please call
FONTANA D/C*/B**	90,000/120,000*	92,500/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	280,000	290,000/420,000*/450,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400,000	415,000/625,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C (with lot)*	400,000	425,000/2.6 M*
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	Please call
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	800,000/850,000*	850,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000/160,000*	180,000
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600,000**	330,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	-	130,000/Please call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	250,000
RIVIERA A/B*	280,000	310,000/420,000*
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	-	130,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*C**	-	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.	Please call	Please call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	300,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC	480,000	500,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,100,000	-
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	900,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	180,000	190,000
VALLEY GOLF	290,000	-
WACK WACK	7.5M all in	-

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack (low price), Rockwell Condominium and Others
Need Lessors for Playing Rights: Eastridge B, Punta Fuego, Rockwell, Sherwood B
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest and Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands and Orchard Townhouse (Terms or Rent)
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay and Southwoods
Buying: Riviera Lots and Southwoods Phase 2
Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; E.C. 141-209-889 or 141-256-188

DISCLOSURES

BELLE Corp. has offered to exchange Floating Rate Notes for common stocks with a par value of P1 per share. The company is undertaking the exchange to reduce its debt burden and foreign exchange risk. It now has $125 million worth of FRNs.

* * *

PHILTREAD Tire & Rubber Corp. said it had no information on what caused its classes "A" and "B" shares to rise by 50 percent and 39.8 percent, respectively.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank has clarified that the Monetary Board has yet to formally approve its rehabilitation plan.

* * *

A. SORIANO Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 19, with record date set on March 2.

* * *

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. has bought from Alsons Cement Corp. 63.8 million class "A" and 15 million class "B" shares of Iligan Cement Corp. for a total of $40.7 million. Republic Cement is now the beneficial owner of about 94.6 percent of Iligan Cement's total outstanding capital stock.

* * *

PACEMCO Holdings Inc. will merge with **NextStage Inc.** and change its principal office from Surigao del Norte to Metro Manila. The number of the company's directors will also be decreased from 11 to nine. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, February 5, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	130.0	130	128	128	500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70.00	70	69.5	69.5	158,000
China Banking Corp.	750.0	750	750	750	50
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	56.00	56	55.5	56	44,000
First E-Bank Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	234.0	234	229	230	44,380
Philippine National Bank	33.00	33.5	32.5	33.5	52,300
Security Bank Corp.	26.50	26.5	26.5	26.5	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3900	.39	.39	.39	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1350	1380	1350	1380	8,830
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	153,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1150	1140	1145	25,190
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	47.50	47.5	47	47	3,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.7300	.8	.73	.75	26,530,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725.0	725	725	725	510
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0575	.0575	.0575	.0575	3,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.4500	.46	.45	.45	150,000
Piltel	.7200	.74	.72	.74	1,070,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	915.0	915	910	915	5,050
Ivantage Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	161,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0700	.075	.0675	.07	310,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	52.50	53	52.5	52.5	7,800
Manila Electric Co. "B"	58.50	58.5	57.5	58	833,200
Petron Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.8	1.82	6,153,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9700	.97	.97	.97	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	390,000
Int'l Container Term'l SV	1.30	1.34	1.26	1.28	3,594,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	.5100	.56	.51	.56	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.5200	.55	.52	.54	1,290,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	.8200	.82	.8	.8	80,000
Union Cement Corp.	.8000	.8	.8	.8	700,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.3	2.3	32,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	41,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	35.00	36	35	36	490,100
RFM Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.06	1.06	574,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	50.00	50.5	50	50.5	275,400
San Miguel Corp. "B"	63.00	63	62.5	63	132,500
Universal Robina Corp.	5.80	5.8	5.8	5.8	20,000
Vitarich Corp.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.5500	.55	.55	.55	20,000
Ayala Corp.	8.20	8.2	8	8	571,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	1,360,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.50	12.5	12	12	600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1	1.04	102,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.3200	.32	.31	.31	1,240,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.50	2.6	2.5	2.6	130,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	.3200	.34	.32	.34	260,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	.1400	.175	.14	.175	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.00	3.05	3	3.05	1,497,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	.1800	.19	.18	.19	250,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.2500	.25	.25	.25	140,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.5400	.54	.53	.53	490,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.20	1.2	1.18	1.2	1,162,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	23.00	23.25	22.25	22.25	299,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	.3700	.37	.37	.37	10,000
Ionics Inc.	15.00	15	15	15	62,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	45,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.1	2.1	500,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. "B"	.0170	.017	.017	.017	1,200,000
Megaworld Corp.	.9200	.92	.91	.91	1,560,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	2.50	2.5	2.5	2.5	6,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.6600	.66	.65	.65	1,410,000
Solid Group Inc.	.7300	.73	.7	.7	1,280,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.4100	.41	.4	.4	1,440,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	.4500	.45	.45	.45	510,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.3500	.4	.35	.36	710,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	.4300	.43	.42	.42	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.50	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
Music Corp.	3.20	3.2	3	3	83,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1450	.145	.145	.145	300,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	5.60	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	.3300	.33	.33	.33	10,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	.9700	.98	.97	.98	670,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	232,300
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6700	.7	.66	.7	1,390,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.6600	.68	.66	.66	3,240,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.5600	.59	.56	.59	1,680,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	47.50	47.5	47	47	41,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.40	3.4	3.3	3.3	284,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	725.0	725	720	720	200
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	22,400
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0036	.0036	.003	.0032	401,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.60	6.6	6.4	6.4	6,820,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.4000	.4	.4	.4	130,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.4200	.45	.42	.45	1,320,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.3500	.35	.33	.34	9,000,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.5000	.5	.49	.49	140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.4200	.44	.42	.43	4,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.55	2,167,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.2000	.2	.2	.2	750,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.4300	.43	.43	.43	640,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	.4000	.41	.4	.4	680,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.10	2.1	2.1	2.1	270,000
SM Development Corp.	.9000	.9	.9	.9	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.00	7	6.8	6.8	1,489,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.1250	.125	.11	.11	1,020,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	19,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	11,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0055	.0055	.005	.005	6,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	4.00	4	4	4	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0180	.018	.018	.018	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "B"	.2050	.205	.205	.205	50,000
Manila Mining Corp. "A"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	25,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	.0070	.007	.007	.007	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0048	.0048	.0044	.0044	43,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	.0180	.018	.018	.018	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. "A"	.2450	.245	.245	.245	1,460,000
Philex Mining Corp. "B"	.2450	.245	.245	.245	310,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.1900	.19	.19	.19	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0290	.029	.027	.027	3,400,000
Interport Res.	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	3,000,000
Interport Res. "B"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0050	.005	.005	.005	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	3,000,000
Pacifica	.0180	.018	.017	.017	28,600,000
Sinophil Corp.	.1000	.1	.1	.1	2,200,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	.2450	.25	.245	.245	150,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	570,250	66,891,520.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	784,856,460	195,793,090.00
PRO	29,406,000	66,945,800.00
Mining	114,930,000	1,196,300.00
OIL	52,350,000	955,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	982,112,710	331,782,110.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	618.19	DOWN 6.47
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,275.58	DOWN13.03
PRO	615.75	DOWN16.63
Mining	1,354.64	UP0.41
OIL	2.03	DOWN 0.07
All Shares Index	826.25	UP3.93
Composite	1,652.08	DOWN17.50

NO. OF ADVANCES: 26; NO. OF DECLINES: 61; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 123; NO. OF TRADES: 3,060

CURRENCIES

Feb. 5, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.067578	1.000000	49.2150
Japan	Yen	0.009233	0.008649	0.4257
United Kingdom	Pound	1.569873	1.470500	72.3707
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136899	0.128233	6.3110
Switzerland	Franc	0.649379	0.608273	29.9362
Canada	Dollar	0.713049	0.667913	32.8713
Singapore	Dollar	0.614434	0.575540	28.3252
Australia	Dollar	0.589073	0.551785	27.1561
Bahrain	Dinar	2.831922	2.652661	130.5507
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.284710	0.266688	13.1250
Brunei	Dollar	0.612670	0.573888	28.2439
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000105	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.025214	0.023618	1.1624
UAE	Dirham	0.290688	0.272287	13.4006
Korea	Won	0.000856	0.000802	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.936700	46.0997
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.478927	23.5704
France	Franc	0.152450	0.142799	7.0279
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.425056	20.9191
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.068073	3.3502
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023220	1.1428
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000484	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.157542	7.7534
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004672	0.2299
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00563	0.2771
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02322	1.1428
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.189364	58.5345

BRIONES' LAST AUCTION

T-bill yield falls for 12th week

THE COUNTRY'S benchmark yield dropped for a 12th straight week after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas cut interest rates Thursday for the seventh time since December.

At yesterday's Bureau of Treasury auction, the average yield on the 91-day bill, which banks use to set lending rates, fell to 10.863 percent from 11.165 percent last week.

The BSP lowered key interest rates by 50 percentage points Thursday to match the US Federal Reserve's rate cut Wednesday. The BSP cut rates three-and-a-half points in the past two months.

Longer tenors such as the 182-day bill yield fell to 12.174 percent from 12.181 percent, while the 364-day bill yield fell to 12.694 percent from 12.699 percent.

Investors bought all of the P1 billion in the 91-day bills for sale.

The Treasury accepted P685 million, or about a quarter of the P2.6 billion tendered in the 182- and 364-day securities. Most of the bids had yields that were higher than at last week's auction.

"The market is holding back for some reasons. What is intriguing and surprising is that the overnight rate has gone down and the market is very liquid but there was still under-subscription," said National Treasurer Leonor Briones, who will step down Friday to pave the way for President Macapagal-Arroyo to name a replacement of her own choosing.

Briones was appointed in 1998 by former President Joseph Estrada, who was ousted last month by a military-backed civilian uprising. Sergio Edeza, senior vice president at Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., the nation's No. 3 bank, has been tipped to replace Briones.

"I'll be leaving by Friday," Briones said after yesterday's auction of government treasury bills. "I'll go freelance after that."

In her more than two years as national treasurer, Briones brought down treasury bill yields to single digits, a level she defended until November, when the bribery scandal engulfing Estrada forced yields higher. Briones also sold treasury bills in small denominations to make them affordable to small investors.

Briones was one of the few government officials who wanted to step down because of the scandal. She was prevailed upon to stay to prevent further escalation of the crisis.

Edeza began his banking career at the country's central bank, where he became treasurer before moving to Metrobank.

Meantime, merchandise exports grew 8.7 percent last year ending a stream of double-digit spurts in previous years, the government said.

Export receipts rose to $38.077 billion last year, from $35.037 billion in 1999, the National Statistics Office said in a statement.

The 1999 figure represented an 18.8-percent growth from calendar 1998.

Import figures for the whole of 2000 have not been released. ***Bloomberg, AFP Clarissa S. Batino***

ADB extends by 2 years $300-M power sector loan

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ASIAN Development Bank has agreed to extend by another two years its $300-million loan for the country's power sector restructuring program in view of the delay in the passage of the Omnibus Power Bill.

ADB country director to the Philippines Gunther Hecker yesterday admitted in a briefing that the bank was not happy with the draft of the bill and thus, welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to revisit the blueprint.

Of the $300-million loan for the power sector reform program, only $100 million has so far been disbursed by the ADB as Congress' inability to pass the Omnibus Power Bill prevented further disbursement from the loan.

The passage of the law was one of the conditions attached to the second tranche of the loan.

The major component of the power restructuring program is the privatization of National Power Corp., which was badly hit by the Asian financial crisis which increased its high debt burden.

The loan from the ADB was supposed to finance some of the adjustment costs for the restructuring, the incorporation of long-term take-or-pay contracts with independent power producers into the competitive framework, and separation payments to employees.

Lower inflow of Japan investments seen

BY ELIZABETH MARCELO
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The administrator of the Japanese industrial complex at Subic Bay Freeport said he expected a lower turnout in Japanese investments this year because of the "political developments in Manila."

Nonetheless, Japanese investments were expected to boost manufacturing, information technology development and export activities in the freeport this year, said Toshio Harada, president of the Subic Techno Park (STEP).

"We cannot be too optimistic about investments this year. It's because of what had happened in Manila," he said.

The political turmoil that led to the downfall of the Estrada administration has fueled perceptions of instability.

Harada said the recent political crisis has driven Japanese businessmen back to the "wait-and-see" stance.

This year, at least three Japanese companies have switched to production mode, with their combined investments worth more than $50 million.

The numbers may be lower but new investments have already begun streaming in.

Harada described the latest additions to the Japanese industrial community as "very big operations."

"(There are) no Japanese operations as big as these anywhere in the Philippines except in Subic," he said, referring to Juken Sangyo (Phils.) Corp., which will inaugurate its wood processing plant at the techno park Thursday, and Sankyo Seiki Manufacturing Co. Ltd., which is set to begin operations in October this year, also at the techno park.

Sankyo Seiki, one of the biggest publicly listed corporations in Japan, is investing $35.8 million for its Subic manufacturing operations. It is constructing a factory on a 5.5-hectare area at the Japanese industrial estate. The area is the second biggest manufacturing facility at the freeport, second only to Acer Philippines Inc., which occupies some 10 hectares of land at the Taiwanese industrial park.

Sankyo will produce micro motors for hard disk drives and pick-ups for digital videodisks and will employ 2,000 to 3,500 workers.

It plans to set up a software engineering center to support its manufacturing operations at the freeport.

Juken Sangyo, which is investing $17 million, will manufacture laminated veneer lumber and decorative wood panels for offices and homes.

It will employ 250 to 700 workers and export about 600 containers a month. This output is expected to increase to 7,500 containers a month at the peak of operations.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said he considered Juken Sangyo as a "very significant project" because its exports would add to the cargo volume being handled by the Subic port.

He said SBMA is developing the port into a major transshipment hub.

Payumo also announced the arrival of 300 investors, bankers and journalists in Subic for the Juken Sangyo inauguration. He described this as a major promotional effort that takes advantage of the thrust toward overseas expansion of Japanese businesses.

The third company set to begin its Subic operations this year is computer software developer and manufacturer Nippon Ceramic Co. Ltd. of Japan, which is investing $250,000. Nicera Phils. Inc., its local affiliate, is scheduled to start operation at the STEP administration building this month.

Its operation in the freeport was significant to the SBMA's CyberSubic thrust, since it is planning to establish its own software development center, Payumo said.

The start of Juken Sangyo and Sankyo Seiki operations this year will complete the major manufacturing triumvirate located at STEP, that includes Sanyo Denki (Phils.) Inc., which is already operational.

Sanyo Denki, considered a world leader in the manufacture of small precision motors, servomotors and systems, UPS and engine generators, began operating last year with committed investments of $21 million.

The SBMA investment center said the first batch of incoming Japanese investments include Crestec Phils. Inc., supplier of printed materials, and Doremi, which will engage in the manufacture, trading and export of electronic appliances.

Harada said STEP would focus this year on IT-related investments.

GMA-7 takeover seen to cost PLDT ₱12B

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

TELECOM giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. may have to shell out at least P10 billion to acquire GMA Network Inc.

A source privy to the negotiations yesterday said the two parties and their financial advisers have already threshed out all the major issues regarding the deal, including the price.

The source said the negotiating parties have agreed not on a specific price but on a formula to be used to arrive at a valuation. "It (the deal) would likely cost the buyer P10 billion or P12 billion."

He said that PLDT's top executives led by its president Manuel V. Pangilinan, the company's financial adviser ABN Amro, representatives of GMA's major stockholders and GMA's financial adviser Chase Manhattan have been "conducting high-level closing negotiations."

"The signing will be held either today or on Wednesday," he added.

Sources earlier said PLDT might opt to acquire ABC-5 if GMA-7 would refuse the telecom giant's offer.

During the launching of ePLDT's call center last week, PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan told reporters there was already a draft of the memorandum of agreement submitted the previous week by PLDT to GMA-7.

PLDT also announced Monday last week that its subsidiary ePLDT started exploratory talks with certain shareholders of GMA-7 for a possible takeover deal. Before ePLDT, a subsidiary of a PLDT trust fund, Mediaquest Holdings Inc., was the one conducting the negotiations.

PLDT was negotiating to acquire at least two-thirds of the shares of GMA-7.

Because existing laws prohibit telecommunications companies from acquiring broadcast firms, the PLDT is coursing its bid to acquire GMA-7 through one of its subsidiaries.

GMA-7 is owned by the Jimenez group (35 percent), Duavit group (35 percent) and the Gozon group (30 percent).

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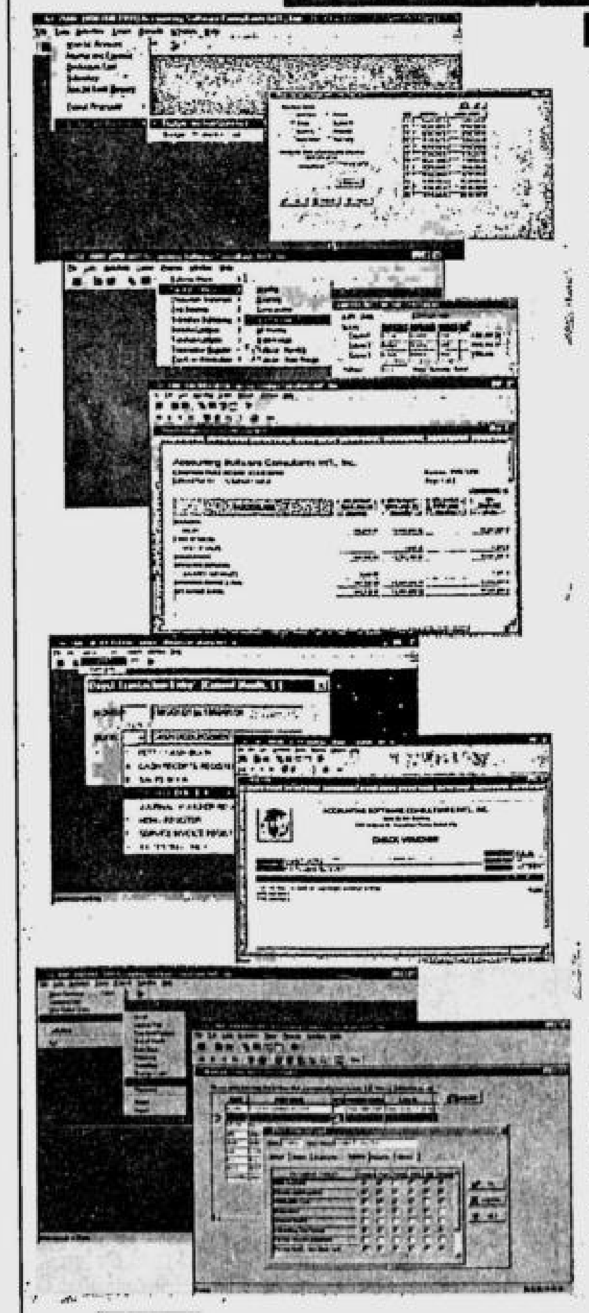

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

For the Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems

under the

LGU Urban Water and Sanitation Project (LGU-UWSP)

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on behalf of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) and their respective Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committees (PBACs) would like to invite interested local and foreign firms to apply for prequalification and eventually to submit a bid, if prequalified, for the **Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design-Build-Lease Contract** in one or both of the following municipalities:

- **Bohol Province—Municipality of Alicia;**
- **Misamis Occidental province—Calamba, Lopez Jaena, Panaon, and Sinacaban municipalities and Oroquieta City;**
- **Quezon province—Buenavista and Padre Burgos**

Prequalification documents are available for issuance to interested potential bidders at the Industrial Restructuring and Research (IRR), 3rd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City with telephone no. (632) 867-3221 and fax no. (632) 815-1517; DBP Branches in Ozamiz and Dipolog in Misamis Occ.; DBP Area Management Office in Lucena City; and the offices of the Mayors of the participating city and municipalities. Documents shall be made available to interested bidders on **February 6-12, 2001.**

Five (5) copies of the duly accomplished prequalification statement together with all the documents required to support the statement shall be submitted to the DBP-IRR on or before 5:00 p.m. of **February 26, 2001** (the "Submission Deadline").

The PBACs of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such bids as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating Local Government Units.

(Sgd.) **MARIETTO A. ENECIO**
Vice-President
Development Bank of the Philippines

(PDI – Feb. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

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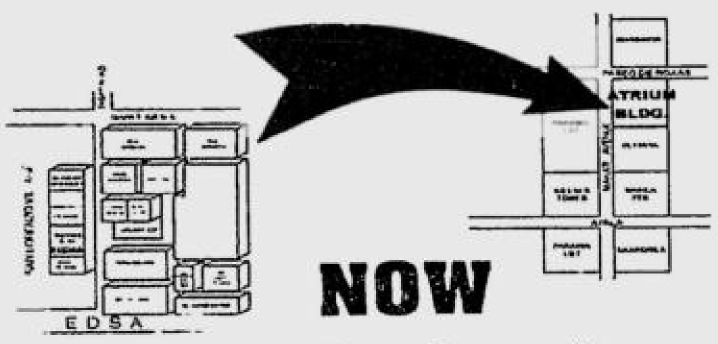

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALICIA B. GOMEZ was extra-judicially partitioned by and among her heirs as per Doc. 45 Pg. 10 Book XLV Series of 2001 before Notary Public Renan R. Osero of Makati City and Doc 007478 Series of 2000 before Notary Public Angelina T. Santos of New Jersey, USA and Consul Joseph Gerard B. Angeles of New York, NY USA
(PDI-Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of the PETRON CORP. stock certificates to wit: DOMINGO DACOME SAY Stck. cert#0388204, 1600 shrs; 0640540, 400 shrs; 1171486, 500 shrs; 1390980, 500 shrs; CARIDAD MENDOZA SAY Stck. Cert.#0388203, 1600 shrs; 0640537, 400 shrs; 1171483, 500 shrs; 1390978, 500 shrs
(PDI-Jan. 23, 30 & Feb 6, 2001)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF CALOOCAN

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SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

ORDINANCE NO. 0337, S. 2000
(PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO.0931)

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF CALOOCAN IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE BILLION SEVEN HUNDRED NINE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINE PESOS (P1,709,615,809.00) TO FINANCE ITS VARIOUS EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001, RELATIVE TO THE PROMOTION OF THE GENERAL WELFARE OF CALOOCAN CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 458(2) (i) of R.A. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the Sangguniang Panlungsod is empowered to enact ordinances approving the annual and supplemental budgets of the City Government and appropriate funds for specific programs, projects, services and activities of the city, or for other purposes not contrary to law, in order to promote the general welfare of the city and its inhabitants.

WHEREAS, in keeping pace with the rapidly increasing growth in technology, the City of Caloocan envisions a more modern approach in its desire to effectively and efficiently deliver basic services needed by its inhabitants;

WHEREAS, the approval of the herein-mentioned annual budget at the earliest possible opportunity is of primordial consideration to fully realize the projected level of growth and development in the City of Caloocan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, as it is hereby ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod in session duly assembled, that

Section 1. *Appropriations for the "2001 Annual ExecutiveBudget"* — The Annual Budget of the City government of Caloocan in the amount of ONE BILLION SEVEN HUNDRED NINE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINE PESOS (P1,799,615,809.00) is hereby approved as follows:

Department/Office/Cost Center	Appropriations
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR	
1. *Executive Direction*	
Personal Services	P 41,614,579.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	20,056,905.00
Capital Outlay	2,000,000.00
Total	P 63,671,484.00
COMPONENT OFFICES:	
2. *Internal Audit Services*	
Personal Services	P 5,809,121.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,172,164.00
Capital Outlay	450,000.00
Total	P 7,431,285.00
3. *Barangay Secretariat*	
Personal Services	P 4.506,297.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	554,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 5,060,297.00
4. *Business Permits and Licensing Services*	
Personal Services	P 8,371,073.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	486,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 8,857,073.00
5. *Caloocan City Waterworks System*	
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	P 13,200,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 13,200,000.00
6. *Community Relations Services*	
Personal Services	P 3,192,209.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	788,275.00
Capital Outlay	400,000.00
Total	P 4,380,484.00
7. *Cultural Affairs and Tourism Services*	
Personal Services	P 3,983,128.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,137,000.00
Capital Outlay	1,000,000.00
Total	P 6,120,128.00
8. *Environmental Sanitation Services*	
Personal Services	P 59,671,537.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	297,902,176.00
Capital Outlay	500,000.00
Total	P 358,073,713.00
9. *Human Resources Management Services*	
Personal Services	P 5,183,634.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	784,000,00
Capital Outlay	200,000.00
Total	P 6,167,634.00
10. *Office of the City Building Official*	
Personal Services	P 7,314,702.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	436,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 7,750,702.00
11. *Office for Land Use and Zoning Administrator*	
Personal Services	P 2,648,514.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	746,640.00
Capital Outlay	150,000.00
Total	P 3,545,154.00
12. *Office of Senior Citizens Affairs*	
Personal Services	P 1,685,772.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	970,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 2,655,772.00
13. *Office for the Urban Poor*	
Personal Services	P 4,517,827.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	824,312.00
Capital Outlay	200,000.00
Total	P 5,542,139.00
14. *Sports Development Services*	
Personal Services	P 3,694,980.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,230,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 4,924,980.00
15. *Office of the City Veterinarian*	
Personal Services	P 1,784,091.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	250,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 2,034,091.00
16. *Parks Administration Services*	
Personal Services	P 2,804,974.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	90,000.00
Capital Outlay	100,000.00
Total	P 2,994,974.00
17. *Accounting Department*	
Personal Services	P 12,950,002.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	880,000.00
Capital Outay	500,000.00
Total	P 14,330,002.00
18. *City Administrator's Office*	
Personal Services	P 4,189,294.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	636,000.00
Capital Outlay	250,000.00
Total	P 5,075,294.00
19. *City Assessor's Office*	
Personal Services	P 11,710,216.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,360,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 13,070,216.00
20. *City Budget Department*	
Personal Services	P 8,165,941.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,550,000.00
Capital Outlay	500,000.00
Total	P 10,215,941.00
City Engineer's Office	
21. *City Engineering Department*	
Personal Services	P 39,089,438.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	25,280,000.00
Capital Outlay	25,000,000.00
Total	P 89,369,438.00
22. *Caloocan City General Hospital*	
Personal Services	P 19,711,481.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	6,741,026.00
Capital Outlay	400,000.00
Total	P 26,852,507.00
23. *General Services Office*	
Personal Services	P 17,454,255.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	6,571,540.00
Capital Outlay	150,000.00
Total	P 24,175,795.00
24. *Caloocan City Health Department*	
Personal Services	P 51,542,703.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	16,255,000.00
Capital Outlay	1,000,000.00
Total	P 68,797,703.00
25. *City Planning and Development Coordination Office*	
Personal Services	P 5,531,607.00
Maintenance and Other Opetating Expenses	610,000.00
Capital Outlay	300,000.00
Total	P 6,441,607.00
26. *Caloocan City Polytechnic College*	
Personal Services	P 24,178,564.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	6,238,000.00
Capital Outlay	2,000,000.00
Total	P 32,416,564.00
27. *City Legal Department*	
Personal Services	P 7,474,973.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	390,000.00
Capital Outlay	300,000.00
Total	P 8,164,973.00
28. *City Treasurer's Office*	
Personal Services	P 25,308,137.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	5,375,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 30,683,137.00
29. *Civil Registry Department*	
Personal Services	P 5,628,346.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	1,772,345.00
Capital Outlay	500,000.00
Total	P 7,900,691.00
31. *DPSTM*	
Personal Services	P 11,047,497.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	2,397,389.00
Capital Outlay	3,000,000.00
Total	P 16,444,886.00
32. *Department of Urban Social and Industrial Relations Services*	
Personal Services	P 13,873,501.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	4,608,000.00
Capital Outlay	1,500,000.00
Total	P 19,981,501.00
33. *Office of the City Vice Mayor*	
Personal Services	P 3,543,260.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	3,200,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 6,743,260.00
34. *Secretariat*	
Personal Services	P 6,890,577.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	380,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 7,270,577.00
35. *Legislative Services*	
Personal Services	P 20,594,823.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	2,400,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
Total	P 22,994,823.00
36. *People's Law Enforcement Board*	
Personal Services	P 3,509,223.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	107,000.00
Capital Outlay	0.00
TOTAL	P 3,616,223.00
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	
37. Personal Services	3,384,000.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions	5,000,000.00
COMELEC	1,100,000.00
City Auditor	800,000.00
City Jail	300,000.00
City Prosecutor's Office	1,582,000.00
DILG	240,000.00
Division of City Schools	16,770,850.00
Fire Department	1,000,000.00
Metropolitan Trial Court	898,000.00
Philippine National Police	6,000,000.00
Public Attorney's Office (PAO)	300,000.00
Regional Trial Court	6,107,494.00
Other National Offices	2,200,000.00
Total M.O.O.E	P 42 298,344.00
Capital Outlay	9,000,000.00
TotalP 54,682,344.00	
38. *Non-Office*	
Personal Services	P 44,148,595.00
Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	73,625,000.00
Capital Outlay	10,000,000.00
Total	P 127,773,595.00
Sub-Total	P 1,099,410,987.00
39. *Statutory and Contractual Obligations*	P 380,204,822.00
54. *Special Projects/Activities Fund*	P 230,000,000.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	**P 1,709,615,809.00**

Section 2. *Annexes* — The detailed 2001 Annual Executive Budget, as correspondingly revised by the Committee on Finance and Appropriations, composed of two hundred thirty two (232) pages shall form and integral part of this ordinance.

Section 3. *Separability Clause* — If for any reason/s, any part or provision of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or rendered invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 4. *Effectivity* — This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval.

ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod,
City of Caloocan in its regular session held
on December 30, 2000.

APPROVED BY HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR ON
____________________.

CERTIFIED BY:

(Sgd.) **HON. EDGAR R. ERICE**
Acting Presiding Officer

Attested by:

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO M.O. VEZA**
Secretary to the Mayor

(Sgd.) **EDGAR M. LERO**
Board Secretary IV

APPROVED BY:

HON. REYNALDO O. MALONZO
City Mayor

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We, the family and relatives of the late

RODOLFO "BABE" OCAMPO DESIDERIO

who joined his Creator on January 25, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Your thoughtfulness at this time of sorrow in our family meant a lot to all of us.

DRA. CANDELARIA (Anding) CASTRO-AGCAOILI

of Laoag City

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 4, 2001
at the age of 83.

Her loving husband **Dr. Eduardo Agcaoili**; children **Engr. Eduardo C. Agcaoili Jr.** and **Dra. Mercy Agcaoili Sombilla**; son-in-law **Engr. William Sombilla**; granddaughter **Monica**; brothers and sisters, **Ms. Rosario Castro, Dr. Paulo Castro, Atty. Jesus Castro, Engr. Jose Castro** (†), **Dr. Pedro Castro, Dra. Lourdes Ordoñez, Prof. Socorro Castro** (†), **Atty. Vicente Castro, Prof. Caridad Guerrero** and **Engr. Eliseo Castro**, nephews and nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

The Management and Staff of
Tyco Electronics Philippines, Inc.
extend their condolences to the family of

THOMAS GAN
COUNTRY MANAGER
PHILIPPINES

who peacefully joined his Creator
on February 4, 2001 at the age of 40.

His bereaved wife **Agnes**; child **Brandon**; father **Kang Chee**; brother **Gerald**; sisters **Pauline, Patricia, Betty**; sister-in-law **Ang Siew Hong**; brothers-in-law **Douglas Low** and **Shernon Mok**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Blk 408 Clement Ave. 1, Singapore.

Cortege will leave at 1 p.m. for the cremation on February 7, 2001 at Mt. Vernon Crematorium (Hall 3), Singapore.

A Holy Mass will be celebrated for him in the Philippines this coming Friday. Please contact Tyco Philippines - 8678641 for the schedule.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

ELENITA LAZARO ODICTA

Oct. 5, 1929 - Jan. 24, 2001

wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all relatives and friends who condoled with us, showed love and concern in our moment of bereavement.
May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.
May the good Lord continue to bless you all!

The family of the late

MANUEL B. ARABIT

who passed away on February 4, 2001
at the age of 58.

wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel C, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2001 at Eternal Garden Memorial Park after 1:00 p.m. Mass (Funeraria Paz).

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

"Come
to
Me,
all
you
who
are
weary
and
burdened,
and
I will
give
you
rest."
Matthew 11:28

Our Dearly Beloved

EDGARDO P. NARVAEZ

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 4, 2001
at the age of 52.

His bereaved wife **Gina Villavicencio Narvaez**; parents **Guillermo** and **Caring**; children **Chriselle, Edrick, Elwyn** and **Edgie**; brothers and sisters **Rody, Boyet** and **Bing, Amor** and **Ranny Nuñez, Pepen, Gimo** and **Normie, Marivic** and **Pat Lo**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Magallanes Chapel, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 8, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati.

RUPERTA ISAY DE ASIS

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 4, 2001
at the age of 90.

Her loving children **SUSANA** and **AMADO** (†), **ANGEL** (†) and **LUDING**, **TINO** (†) and **MAMENG** (†), **VIRING**, **HELEN** and **ROGER** (†), **AURORA** and **MANUEL** (†), **PATTY** (†), **LIGAYA**, **MANUEL** and **NATY**, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 8, 2001 at the San Juan Cemetery after the 1 p.m. Mass in Arlington, Felicidad Chapel.

Our Dearest Mama

Aurora Alegre Jonson

Peacefully joined her Creator on 04 February 2001 at the age of 83

Her loving children and in-laws **Aurora Fe** and **Bob (†)**, **Boyer (†)** and **Marivic**, **Azon**, **Lilia** and **Ernie**, **Mona** and **Phil**, **Toto**, **Aida** and **Law**, **Cea** and **Bebo**, **Seny**; grandchildren **Chris** and **Yazzy**, **Patricia**, **Joe**, **Karina**, **Nap**, **Ching** and **Dhes**, **Ana Marie** and **Noli**, **Rene** and **Leda**, **Bernadette** and **Jaime**, **Pauline**, **Russell**, **Ryan** and **Dani**, **Lilia**, **Bonbon** and **Gigi**, **Celeste** and **Jerome**, **Ian**, **Gula**, **Jayjay**, **Brian**, **Nini**, **Charm**, **Jhong**, **Tintin**, **Tino**, **Joy**; great grandchildren, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her body lies in state at the **Premiere II, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City** until Wednesday, **07 February 2001, 2:00 AM**, afterwhich will be at Camp Allen Chapel, Baguio City.
Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, 10 February 2001, 8:30 AM
at the Baguio Cathedral, Baguio City.
Interment will follow at the Baguio Cemetery.

Card of Thanks

The bereaved wife **MRS. JOSEFINA Q. DIWAJON**; and brothers **ISIDRO** and **PEPE**; nieces **ATOY**, **LINZEL**, **BABY OLIVE**; nephews **BONG**, **R.A.**, **J.C.**, **ANDY** and relatives of the late

ENGR. ROGELIO A. DIWAJON

who joined his Creator on January 30, 2001 at the age of 65.

wish to convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who paid their last respect and grieved with them, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, messages and sympathy, kept vigil, were present at necrological services, funeral rites and who in various generous ways gave them comfort at the time of their loss and sorrow.

"Eternal life will swallow yp that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

TONY TAN

(Tan Piac)

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 1, 2001
at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **SOLEDAD**; children **TERESITA**, **MARITES**, **SUSAN**, **LITO** and **ROBERTO**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Thursday, February 8, 2001 at Chinese Crematorium, Manila at 9:00 AM.

DOLORES P. TIMBOL

April 3, 1925 - February 5, 2001

Her loving children **Vicky** and **Rene**, **Abet** and **Rona**; grandchildren **Rgen**, **Rica**, **Trisha**, **Abby**, and **Jobet**; brother **Zaro**, and relatives request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

Interment will be announced later.

Judge Aristedes de la PAZ y Briones

of Sagay, Negros Occidental

Peacefully joined his Creator last Thursday, February 01, 2001
at the age of 82.

His loving wife **Cresencia**; children **Erlinda Calvara**, **Letlet Ramos**, **Socorro Brar**, **Gerardo de la PAZ**, **Aristedes de la PAZ Jr.**, and sons and daughter-in-law, **Tony**, **Cesar**, **Bobby**, and **Rose**, grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at CALVARA's Residence (located at #33 Zone 61 Sagkahan Dist., Tacloban City).

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory

on the **First Death Anniversary** of

PACITA DE LEON FERNANDEZ

24 June 1930 -- 07 February 2000

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches
on February 7, 2001:

Mt. Carmel Shrine, *New Manila, Q.C.*	7:00 a.m.
St. Claire, *Clifton, N.J.*	8:00 a.m.
St. Edward the Confessor Church *No. York, Toronto*	9:30 a.m.
Mary the Queen *Greenhills, San Juan*	6:00 p.m.
Mt. Carmel Parish *Road 8, Proj. 6, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
Sta. Maria della Strada *Katipunan Road, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susanna Parish *Ayala Alabang*	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph the Parish Worker *Palanan, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	6:15 p.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus *Aguirre Ave., B.F. Homes*	7:00 p.m.

The family extend their sincerest thanks
to all those who continue to pray for her.

VICENTE BATTUNG CO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on February 2, 2001 at the age of 70.

He is survived by his bereaved wife Edna; children Margaret, Catherine, Henry and George; grandchildren Elza Kristen, Krysta Antionette, Julian Lorenzo, Oliver Allen, Henry Jr., Kim Julianne, Miguel Lorenzo, Manuel Antonio; son-in-law Julian; daughters-in-law Victoria and MyAnn (†).

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 3-A) 264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Mass will be held daily at 8:00 p.m. until February 9, 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 10, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CLASSIFIEDS

INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Caesar's wife

Q. Who is "Ceasar's wife" and why must she be "above suspicion?"

A. "Caesar" is the great Roman general and statesman Julius Caesar (100-44 BC) and his wife is Pompeia. After Caesar's first wife, Cornelia, died in 68 BC, he married Pompeia, a granddaughter of Sulla, another Roman general and statesman. Later, she was discovered to be having an affair with Clodius, a young profligate noble. Clodius was tried and Caesar divorced Pompeia.

At the trial, Caesar declared that he knew nothing of the details of the affair. Asked why he had then divorced his wife, Caesar replied (according to Roman historian Suetonius) "My family should be free not only from guilt but even from suspicion," or, (according to Greek writer Plutarch) "Because I thought that my wife should not even come under suspicion." Hence the modern expression that, "like Caesar's wife," a person in high office must act in such a way that no suspicion can fall on him or her.

Ooops! Many people think that Julius Caesar was a Roman emperor. He wasn't—the empire wasn't formed until some years after his death. Nor did he acquire the title "king" or "consul." He was simply a general and statesman whom the Roman Senate made dictator for life.

Pinoy First. The first talking Tagalog movie was *Punyal na Ginto* (Golden Dagger), produced in 1933 and based on the popular novel by Antonio Sempio. It was also the first Filipino film with sound in its entirety. Directed by cinema pioneer Jose Nepomuceno, *Punyal na Ginto* starred Alma Bella, Carlos Padilla, Tina del Rosario, and Paco Zamora.

WORD WATCH

Riposte (ri powst') : a sharp, swift retort; from a swift thrust in fencing made after parrying an opponent's lunge.

PDI – February 6, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SAAC Bldg. UP Diliman Complex
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Impact Evaluation of the Philippine Human Rights Plan

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Commission on Human Rights announces its search of a qualified Consultancy Group to undertake an impact evaluation of the Philippine Human Rights Plant (PHRP). The assessment shall determine the extent of implementaiton and results of the PHRP. Specifically, it must:

- Identify legislative, administrative and programme measures formulated, adopted and implemented in response to human rights issues under the 16 identified sectors;
- Determine changes, if any, on human rights situations of the sectors concerned;
- Find out the nature and degree of coordination between and among participating government, non-government and people's organizations in implementing priority programmes in response to human rights issues;
- Identify factors which facilitate or hinder effective PHRP implementation; and
- Recommend areas for further improvement of the PHRP.

A Pre-Qualification / Pre-Bid Meeting shall be held on February 12, 2001, Monday 9:30 a.m. at the CHR Conference Room, SAAC Bldg., UP Diliman Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Interested bidders are required to submit the following Pre-Qualification / Pre-Bid Documents on the said date:

- Profile of the Consulting Group, to include specific areas of involvement in research and program evaluation (give specific work), work background, fields of specialization
- SEC registration and other appropriate licenses
- Income tax return for the last two years.

For details, contact the PHRP Secretariat (c/o Ms. Naylene Bautista) at nos. 927-6225 and 925-3878

(Sgd.) COMM. JORGE R. COQUIA
Head, CHR Committee on Bids & Awards

(PDI – Feb 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

AUCTION

ELECTRIC MOTORS; ROLLER CONVEYORS, CONTROL PANELS, SCRAP MATERIALS, OVER 5000 WOODEN PALLETS

AT: East Gate, #10 Main Light Industry & Science Park (LISP), Cabuyao, Laguna
ON: Thursday, 8th February 2001 at 2:00pm
ON VIEW: Thursday, 8th February 2001, 9:00am - 2:00pm
ON-SITE RULES: No sandals, No Shorts, No Sleeveless Shirts, No Smoking
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php10,000 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

HENRY BUTCHER & CO. (PHILS.), INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jollliand Building, 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2) - 852 2910 * 852 2911 Fax: (63-2)-831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

Make a career choice Online. Visit us at
www.jobmarketonline.com

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF CALOOCAN
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified by the City Government of Caloocan that the Committees on Urban Planning, Parks and Playgrounds, Laws, Real Estate and Subdivision of the Sangguniang Panlungsod will hold the final public hearings on the Proposed Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance of the City of Caloocan on February 20, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the North Caloocan City Hall (Bukid Area) and on February 23, 2001 at Bulwagang Katipunan, Caloocan City Hall (Main) at 2:00 p.m.

The business sector, non-government organizations and people organizations, local officials and other interested entries are enjoined to share their views, opinions and disagreement, if any, on the proposed measure at the above-mentioned dates and venues.

(Sgd.) **Hon. EDGARDO "EGAY" ERICE**
Councilor-Chairman
Committee on Laws

(PDI – Feb. 6, 12 & 19, 2001)

People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

Study confirms Xenical lowers weight, reduces health risks

OBESITY used to be a problem only in the western world. Now the incidence of obesity is a major concern here in the Philippines. Because the accompanying health risks are far more serious like diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol, all sectors of society need to join hands to combat widespread obesity. Educating the people about the risks of obesity is vital in preventing its further incidence.

A two-year European clinical study confirmed that Xenical (orlistat), Roche's anti-obesity agent, promotes clinically significant weight loss and plays a pivotal role in the prevention of weight regain in obese patients.

Results also showed that Xenical-induced weight reduction improves several cardiovascular risk factors. This indicates that Xenical has an independent effect on cholesterol (LDL) levels beyond the expected from weight loss alone. Xenical also lowers blood sugar levels among diabetic patients and blood pressure.

In the long run, patients on Xenical tend to "lessen the need for drugs against diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol.''

Xenical is the first of a new class of non-systemically acting anti-obesity drugs called lipase inhibitors that act in gastrointestinal tract. The Xenical clinical trial is the largest and longest of any placebo-controlled studies for an anti-obesity pharmacological agent. Xenical blocks the absorption of fat, which is the culprit in obesity.

More important than simply lowering weight is Xenical's reduction of the dreaded diseases like diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol levels.

More than 8.5 million people worldwide have benefited from Xenical since its introduction in 1998.

METROBANK, CANLUBANG GOLF SIGN ACCORD

Metrobank, the country's leading bank and Canlubang Golf and Country Club recently signed a memorandum of agreement which formalized the appointment of the former as the fund manager of the country club's retirement fund. Signing the agreement are (seated, from left) Canlubang Golf and Country Club general manager Cliff M. Friedman, executive director Gerardo B. Yulo, president Arsenio B. Yulo, Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan Jr., and senior vice president and trust banking head Josefina E. Sulit. Looking on are (from left) Maite Tengco of Canlubang Golf and Country Club, Metrobank business development officer Virna Liza Alamar and marketing assistants Cristina Decena and Menard Ong.

PANA, WG & A DONATE BOOKS

The Philippine Association of National Advertisers (PANA) in cooperation with WG&A (Superferry) donated elementary books to Alitagtag Central School in Alitagtag Batangas. At the turnover ceremony are (from left) district supervisor Concepcion Andal, principal II Paulina Diona, guidance counselor Leticia Manalo, masterteacher I Perlita Castillo, property custodian Alberto Visconde, Jr., Nene Moreto-Catapang and Nora Moreto Capuloy who facilitated the donation and PANA executive director Nonie S. Azarcon.

First e-Bank gets BSP nod for electronic banking

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) formally confirmed 1st e-Bank's authority under BSP Circular 240, Series of 2000, to continue providing electronic banking services via its present Cellphone Banking System and soon with its proposed Internet Banking System. On December 21, 2000, the BSP issued Monetary Board Resolution No. 2181 approving the bank's request to set up internet-enabled personal computers, or kiosks, in selected branches.

According to Carlos A. Pedrosa, 1st e-Bank president and chief executive officer, the BSP's approval signals to the business community that 1st e-Bank has met the BSP's tough requirements in order to be granted e-banking authority. "This enables the bank to aggressively pursue the development and marketing of specialty products to position itself at the core of e-commerce," said Pedrosa.

The approval requires that the bank shall have appropriate top-level risk management oversight functions and that business expansion shall not put undue strain on its systems. With a standing approval to open 19 additional branches, 1st e-Bank will carefully program its network expansion to optimize the deployment of internet banking services among its present and prospective branches.

1st e-Bank CEO Primo B. Aguas also said that the approval paves the way for 1st e-Bank to becoming the internet bank of choice in the country as it allows the bank to introduce new products superior to what other banks now offer. According to Aguas, "Internet-related products will consist of both wired and wireless, or mobile, solutions. The enhanced competitive posture will put 1st e-Bank head and shoulders above the competition."

With the introduction of internet banking, slated for pilot launching within the first quarter of 2001, 1st e-Bank customers may soon conduct their business in the comfort of their homes and offices. Aguas said that

building the infrastructure as well as training for managers and rank-and-file will be accelerated to support the new environment and to insure that the expected tide of customers' queries are adequately addressed.

In the near-term, the bank is looking forward to forging a technological alliance with a Pan-European leader in internet banking that will enable 1st e-Bank to introduce into the local market state-of-the-art IT-related products. This tie-up will accelerate 1st e-Bank's thrust into the anticipated upturn of a dynamic new economy.

RECYCLING AT ITS BEST

Residents of Pasig City know best that trash can be made into something useful. The communities in Pasig have made it a practice to collect and sell old Zest-O pouches to Barangay Ugong to be fashioned into attractive, sturdy and useful bags for shopping, out-of-town trips and other carry-all chores. This past Christmas, Pasig residents made use of old Zest-O products as materials for lanterns. Shown with their charming creation are (from left) first prize winners, Amalia and Richelle Tejuco; Francisco Cada, Zest-O Corp. marketing manager and Barangay Ugong Pasig chair Andy Santiago.

PIDSP annual convention set Feb. 7

THE Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP) will hold its 8th annual convention from Feb. 7-8, 2001 at the Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila. This year's theme is "Continuing Challenges in Pediatric Infectious Diseases.''

Two foreign speakers have been invited, namely Dr. Richard Jacobs, from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas Children's Hospital, and Dr. David Isaacs, from the University of Sydney.

Pre-registration (on or before Feb. 3) fee is P800. Onsite registration fee is P1,200. For more details, contact PIDSP Secretariat at 412-6998, 374-1855 or e-mail at pidsp@uplink.com.ph.

REINFORCING BONDS

Roasters Philippines, Inc. recently strengthened its alliance with IM2 Corporation by signing a contract agreement implementing Batchmaster ERP System. Victor Barreiro, general manager of Roasters Phils. Inc. (second from right), graced the ceremonial contract signing accompanied by Joel Songco, finance manager (right). Representing IM2 Corporation are Josie Gagui, director for Process Manufacturing Solutions (second from left) and Julian Lola Jr., director for product development (left).

BITS & Clips

New Year promo from Pitstop

TIARA Commercial and Industrial Corporation announces its New Year promo dubbed "Pitstop Freebies and Surprises" in all its Pitstop Service Centers. The promo entitles Pitstop customers to get free premium items. Customers who buy at least two Kumho tires will get one set of Ultimat car mats for free; for every Kumho truck tire or every Circuit or Boss battery, one Pitstop t-shirt; for every set of Enkei wheels, one Pitstop golf umbrella; for every 4 liter or 1 gallon of Fuchs lubricant, one Fuchs sport cap; and for every set of Ultimat car mats, one Pitstop sport cap. For promo details, call 818-5281.

BOOK DONATION

Powerbook's Adrian Ramos (right) and Adarna House's Ani Almario (center) recently donated books to the Library of La Salle Greenhills. The books were a selection of titles of young adult literature to help build a young adult section in the school library, and to encourage high school students to start a good reading habit. Receiving the donation are Amy Galang, head of the English department together with La Salle faculty representatives. The donation is part of Powerbooks, National Book Store, Filipinas Heritage, Candy Magazine and Adarna House's Teens Read, Too campaign for high school students.

HSAI – RAINTREE TO MANAGE OLYMPIA COURTYARD SUITES

Olympia Condominium Corporation, owners of The Olympia Courtyard Suites, recently appointed HSAI-Raintree to handle management of the said full-serviced apartment along Makati Avenue, Makati City beside The Peninsula Manila. This new management group behind The Olympia Courtyard Suites specializes in operating serviced apartments. They are also the managers of Discovery Suites along ADB Avenue in Ortigas Center. Present during the contract signing are (from left) Bobby Horrigan, director for special projects HSAI Raintree; Annie Mandriak, president of Olympia Condominium Corporation; Annabella Wisniewski, president of HSAI-Raintree and Tom Wisniewski, chair of Raintree Partners.

GOTESCO
IFCA Consulting Group
CONTRACT SIGNING

EVER GOTESCO-IFCA CONTRACT SIGNING

Ever Gotesco Group of Companies, owner-operator of one of the country's leading chain of malls, has recently signed with IFCA Consulting Philippines, Inc. for a contract to computerize its chain of malls in Metro Manila. Present at the contract signing are (seated, from left) Joel T. Go, Ever Gotesco executive assistant to the president and IFCA Consulting Group's chief operating officer, Jeffrey Cheah. Witnessing the ceremony are (from left) Jose Rayel M. DE Guia, IFCA systems applications consultant; Kenrick G. Lim, Ever operations manager; Johann T. Go, Ever Supermarket VP for purchasing; Ellen S. Miranda, GM for Ever Gotesco chain of malls; Armando N. David, Ever Gotesco Group chief financial officer; Joey L. Camarus, Ever chief financial officer and IFCA senior marketing consultant Rian G. Oliveros.

Masbate HS Class '69 reunion

MEMBERS of the Masbate High School Class '69 will hold "Balik Alma Mater" reunion at the Masbate High School (now Masbate National Comprehensive High School) on the third week of May 2001. Festivities and sports activities will highlight the four-day reunion. For more information, class '69 member who are in Metro Manila may contact Viola Versoza at 931-6187 and Liliosa Hernandez-Cunanan at 367-4406. Those in Visayas and Mindanao areas may call Jocelyn Aguilar-Abulucion at (033) 336-2659 and Masbate, Judge Fred A. Bien at (0917) 396-9496 and Estela Huertas at (0917) 471-7401.

Bulusan elementary school homecoming

THE SAN ROQUE Elementary School of Bulusan, Sorsogon will hold its alumni homecoming on Aug. 17-19. Dubbed "Baralikan 2001," activities include a CIVAC which will be held during the holy week, and the publication of a Golden Book, to be edited by Sim Enaje-Gamba. For more information, communicate with the Secretariat, SRES Golden Homecoming 2001, San Roque, Bulusan, Sorsogon, or Sim E. Gamba, Office of the Mayor, LGU-Bulusan, Bulusan, Sorsogon 4704 or call (056) 421-5065, or (02) 831-0363/ 551-4887and look for Luz Z. Gamba of Bulusan Travel and Tours Corp.

Wanna be an image model?

SABICLUB.COM the newest and most interactive Pinoy cyberclub today is in search of the club's image—Sabigirl 2001. Girls who are at least 16-21 years old, with pleasing personality, witty, good looks and foxy are qualified to enter the search. The search is primarily an online beauty contest where members of the club can get a first hand vote for their image model. Sixteen girls who get the most number of votes will vie for the grand finals on March 30, 2001. Interested applicants may apply online with one 3R close-up photo and one 3R full body shot. Applying us easy, just log on to www.Sabiclub.com.

ABSI SCORES FOUR

Asian Business Solutions Inc. (ABSI) celebrated its fourth anniversary last December at the Manila Polo Club. The event focused on the theme of convergence as clients, partners and friends all came to celebrate four successful years of partnership with ABSI. Shown are (from left) Josua Gohoc, ABSI associate technical manager; John Go Hoc, ABSI chair; Vida T. Chiong, deputy insurance commissioner and Converge@ABSI keynote speaker; Menchie L. Aragon, ABSI president; distinguished guest, Dr. Washington Sycip; Alice C. Gohoc, ABSI treasurer; and Johann Gohoc, ABSI director.

SCHOLARSHIP PROJECTS

Last Christmas, Star Alliance, a 15-member airline network raffled off round-trip tickets to several Star Alliance destinations around the world to generate funds for the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) scholarship projects. Showing off the giant-sized tickets are (from left) Edward L. Ferreira, chair of MAP membership/fellowship committee; Mike Leitz, Lufthansa Airlines passenger sales and marketing manager; Leah Gamboa, sales manager; Varig Brasil; Juan B. Santos, MAP president for 2000; Malou Duenas, Thai Airways sales supervisor and Robert F. De Ocampo, MAP governor for 2000.

Pimentel cites land title computerization project

BY VICENTE B. FOZ

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has commended the Land Registration Authority for pushing through the computerization of its land titling operation to provide better service to the public and ensure the integrity of land titles.

Speaking at the LRA's 68th anniversary program, Pimentel particularly lauded Administrator Alfredo R. Enriquez and other agency officials for working hard with private sector assistance toward modern "paperless processing" of land transactions.

The project's three fully computerized pilot sites—the registries of deeds of Quezon City, Parañaque and Cebu City—will start operating by July, and in three years, the LRA central office and all its registries of deeds will be fully online.

Present during the program was Justice Undersecretary Ramon Liwag who represented Justice Secretary Hernani Perez.

Pimentel has been supporting the LRA project, citing the agency's role in social and economic advancement through its effort to preserve the integrity of the Torrens system. Investor confidence is influenced by, among others, a stable and reliable land titling system.

LRA ADMINISTRATOR Alfredo R. Enriquez is briefed by Korean technicians during the prototype operation of the agency's land titling computerization project during the LRA's 68th anniversary at its central office on East Avenue, Quezon City. Also shown are Deputy Administrator Ricardo F. Arandilla, Cynthia Ignacio, chief of LRS Micrographics and Computer Division, registrars of deeds, and Cezar Quiambao, president of the Strategic Development Corp., lead member of the Lares, now implementing the project.

THE AERIAL photo detects discrepancies between the land title presented and the image database.

Reliable system

The Land Registration Systems Inc. (Lares), the corporate arm of the private consortium carrying out the project, is seeking to simplify and standardize the LRA operation to make it "a more reliable and predictable registration system." The Lares is coordinating with the LRA project management committee headed by Deputy Administrator Eriberto Feliciano.

Through computerized operations, the LRA will run speedy paperless processing of transactions, electronically secure land records, provide automatic check of lot data, search and update status of land titles, allow automated trace-back of title history, and respond to "anytime/anywhere" queries from the public.

How it works

The project began by scanning original certificates of titles and transfer certificates of title (TCTs) in the registries of deeds—LRA's frontline offices in major cities and urban centers nationwide. These titles and other documents will be examined and validated before being transferred into a database to be used when processing title transactions such as transfer of titles or annotation on them of encumbrances and other acts or events affecting the ownership of the property.

Each registry will have an image database and a textual database of all titles. The latter, especially the descriptions in each title, will then be processed in a civil engineering software program that will plot the descriptions to determine if the polygon closes and if the area described in the title is correct.

To be conducted are aerial and satellite surveys of the entire area covered by the titles in the registry of deeds. The surveys will be checked against the corrected textual database. The cause of any discrepancy will be exhaustively investigated. Conflicts and overlaps will be adjudicated or decided by the LRA.

The layout, equipment and facilities, including those for fire protection, of the registry of deeds are modernized for the new form of public service.

After the massive information technology infrastructure is completed, a nationwide network of land titles offices and facilities will be in place to make possible seamless information access, transfer and exchange among and between the central office, regional registries of deeds and registries of deeds.

Thus, for instance, a buyer sitting in his office in Metro Manila need not go to Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, to check on the property he is interested in acquiring. He may drop by the LRA central office whose data mainframe will zero in on specific information about the property.

Assurance

What's more, the prospective buyer is assured of the genuineness of the title to the property. Through what is called "geographic information system," the project aims to be able to flush out fake or spurious titles by the time the whole operation is completed.

In range and magnitude of public service and seemingly endless potential for new customer services and products, the LRA project beats the handful of other government agencies going into IT programs.

Since the cost of the IT project is being borne by the private consortium, the government won't spend for building the whole infrastructure. In the end, it's the public that the LRA services that benefits from it all.

One-stop home and lifestyle store opens at Power Plant Mall

CALL it home improvement, home concepts or home design. If there's anything under the sun to make your home and your lifestyle just the way you want it to be, then this flagship store at Rockwell Center's Power Plant Mall is the answer.

True Value, a long trusted name in home improvement and design, has opened its flagship store over a 2,240 sq.-m. area at the Power Plant Mall Concourse level. The True Value Home Center is designed to cover everything you would want for your home, or even for yourself. If you even want to start building your own home from scratch, True Value Home Center carries the construction items—tiles, electrical and lighting equipment, cement, paints, plumbing fixtures, home building supplies, to name a few—to houseware, bed and bath accessories, furnishings and decor for the finishing touch. The store also offers sports and outdoor gear, automotive products and garden and landscaping equipment and accessories.

Wide array

"The True Value Home Center is a lot more than a hardware store," explains True Value Hardware Corp. ad and promo manager Lani Castañeda. "We carry a wider array of merchandise, local and imported. We are covering all aspects of the house, not just in building it."

It's about lifestyles in a department store layout. Something for every nook and cranny, then. The barbecue grill of your dreams, for example is situated beside the perfect tongs and barbecue accessories, the right veranda dining set, the pretty potholders, the matching picnic dining ware, you get the picture. And if you don't, True Value Home Center has specially trained staff in each department to answer your queries.

While a concept is presented in every department, a customer with "designer doubts" and other ideas can consult the store's in-house planner. Problems with shape, size, color, texture and doubts about an intended look can get professional solutions from True Value Home Center's planners.

"We also maintain a list of accredited contractors, for those who want only reliable names for their home restructuring," said Castañeda.

5 house labels

True Value actually carries five house labels of US-based True Serve Corp., the world's largest cooperative of hardware and variety stores that sells only to member retailers. This allows True Value Home Center to offer trusted brands like Tru-Test line of paints, Master Mechanic for auto and engine assistance products and services, Green Thumb for garden and landscaping needs, and Master Plumber and Master Electrician.

Also available are leading names in power tools and equipment like Bosch and DeWalt. Found the Black & Decker power tool your brother in Davao always wanted? Or that special foldable fire escape for your hometown abode? True Value Home Center in the Power Plant Mall will exclusively carry a packaging and shipping service through GeoLogistics. The customer can have their items packed and shipped off, safe and sound. The service is expected to be a hit convenience among customers.

While home improvement warehouse stores and hardware stores spring up here and there, the True Value Home Center promises to be a lot more. Aside from its diverse products and services for a simpler, safer and enjoyable lifestyle, and for remodeling and renovation, the store offers hobbyists with do-it-yourself projects, gardening and landscaping lectures and even decorative painting and crafts.

Monthly offerings

"True Value Home Center plans to offer these monthly educational activities and demonstrations from reputable organizations like the Guild of Decorative Arts by next year. We want our customers to have fun learning new things. Besides, they will find that the store also offers everything they need to turn that creative idea into something real," said Castañeda.

Aside from priming the store for the holiday crowd, the company is also centralizing operations at its Power Plant outlet.

So how about that indoor fountain you've always wanted? Or the child-safe plug protector to match your wall? The knockdown shelf for the garage? The paint for your wall stencil project? You can do it all for your home in just one stop at the Power Plant Mall, the True Value Home Center.

The Power Plant Mall at Rockwell Center has 2,000 parking slots and is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., on weekends starting Fridays.

Condonation of housing loan penalties extended

DELINQUENT housing loan beneficiaries of the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. who are updating their monthly loan payments will continue to receive loan penalty condonation assistance until June 30.

According to NHMFC president Angelico Salud, the condonation assistance was being provided to ensure the affordability of the borrowers' housing loan amortization.

Salud said the loan relief assistance supports earlier directives of the former administration to provide assistance to economically distressed beneficiaries of the government housing program.

The extension of the condonation period was effected through the continued implementation of the Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998, which was recently approved by the NHMFC board of directors.

Salud earlier reported that a total of 286,860 homeowners would benefit from the relief assistance.

These beneficiaries were broken down into 175,000 homeowners under the unified home lending program, 8,489 under the Folio K program and 105,371 informal settler borrowers under the community mortgage program.

The NHMFC head said the condonation scheme can only be availed of once by the beneficiaries.

Under the condonation law, 100 percent of the penalties accumulated due to nonpayment of monthly amortizations may be condoned once the delinquent borrower pays his total monthly arrearages.

Firm offers 'double discount' on house and lot package

A REAL estate developer is planning a series of sales blitzes in a number of residential development projects south of Metro Manila.

On Feb. 11, San Lorenzo Development Corp. is set to launch at Villa Esmeralda and San Lorenzo Royale, both first-class subdivisions near the fabled Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, its first-quarter promo dubbed "Valentine Offering."

On this promo day, prospective house-and-lot buyers will get the chance not only to see for themselves different house models but also avail of a "double discount." This means that a buyer gets 10-percent discount on the house price even if the unit is paid in installment and another 10-percent discount on the total house-and-lot package if the buyer chooses to pay in cash.

There are at least seven house designs with unique features to choose from. These are prices from P2.5 million to P3 million, which are subject to such discounts. Villa Esmeralda and San Lorenzo Royale is a project of San Lorenzo Development Corp.

Because Feb. 11 coincides with the first open house this year, a special discount is being offered on top of the promo discounts earlier stated.

Already a thriving community, Villa Esmeralda & San Lorenzo Royale is near Dominican College and other public and private schools and residents have a choice of the other nearby facilities such as Enchanted Kingdom, Splash Island and Sta. Elena Golf Course. Traveling to and from Villa Esmeralda and Makati area is a breeze as it takes only about 45 minutes to an hour.

For inquiriesm please call 524-0109, 524-0119 or 524-0131 or fax at 525-8781.

Cityland Vito Cruz Tower foundation now complete

CITYLAND, a trusted name in the real estate industry for more than 20 years, had already completed the bored pile foundation works of its newly launched Cityland Vito Cruz Tower.

With 32 stories of office, commercial and residential units, Cityland Vito Cruz Tower located on Vito Cruz Street is in front of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. It is a few steps away from De La Salle University, St. Benilde, St. Scholastica, churches, hotels, restaurants and various commercial complexes.

Quality control testing was conducted on each completed bored pile foundation by Dynamic Testing Phils. Inc. and witnessed by representatives of Cityland and Trans-Asia Phils. Inc., the construction management consultant.

Cityland Vito Cruz Tower has made a remarkable showing in terms of sales.

Sentricon now in Cebu

THE BREAKTHROUGH termite control system that is taking the world by storm has finally landed in the historic Queen City of the South.

Sentricon System will host a launch event in Waterfront Cebu City Hotel on Saturday. Guests and media personalities will be treated to cocktails, a home and garden fashion show-cum-exhibit and various Sentricon "special sur-prizes."

Dow AgroSciences executives will be flown in from abroad to prove to Cebuanos why Sentricon is regarded by experts as the most significant termite control development the industry has seen in decades. Dow AgroSciences, the industry leader in pest control and training based in the United States, developed the Sentricon system.

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Engr. Ernesto Battad, Sr. (Philippines)

"Regional City and Community Restorative Measures"
Prof. Bruce Etherington (USA)

"An Overview of the Building and Property Management Industry in the Philippines"
Mr. Val Abeng (Philippines)

"International Contracting-New Projects, Old Lessons"
Mr. Vincent Rowan (UK)

Fiber Optics in Lighting Aesthetics"
Dr. Manfred Adamer (Austria)

"Prefabrication, Modularity and Flexibility in Housing Design"
Mr. Joseph Wong (Hong Kong)

"The Ecological Design of Large Buildings and Sites: Theory and Experiment"
Dr. Ken Yeang (Malaysia)

"Preservation and Restoration of Ancient Buildings"
Mr. Stefano Musso (Italy)

For registration and fee inquiry, please call the Event Secretariat (WSI) at tel. nos. (632) 531 63 74; 531 6350

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

SAPANG PALAY DESTRUCTION

Farmers group files contempt charges vs Moldex Realty

TEXT AND PHOTO
BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

SAN JOSE Del Monte, Bulacan—"No government nor law and order. This is a concrete example of illegal land conversion winning over redemption of agricultural land because of grease money."

This was declared by Samahang Magbubukid sa Sapang Palay (Samasa) spokesperson and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) chair Jaime "Ka Jimmy" Tadeo as he recounted the recent destruction of portions of the 108.5 hectares of Sapang Palay plantation in this town. The two associations alleged that Moldex Realty, using four bulldozers and aided by 600 policemen sent by Gov. Josie dela Cruz, scraped the planted ricefields, mango trees and fishponds containing 1,500 tilapia in nine days (Jan. 18 to 26, 2001) without a Supreme Court Order or a land conversion order.

FOOD SECURITY ZONE
HACIENDA SAPANG PALAY
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, BULACAN

THE SWEAT of the farmers is wiped off the face of the earth as Moldex Realty's work paves the way for a subdivision. Seen here are Sapang Palay farmers with Ka Jimmy and Ka Ruben. Farmers lost P10 million and four harvest periods.

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AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Samasa lawyers have filed a petition for contempt against Moldex. The Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) gave Moldex Realty 10 days to explain why no contempt charge should be filed against the firm. A Feb. 16 hearing has been scheduled at the Darab central office.

Farmers insist the "status quo" order by the Department of Agrarian Reform should have remained in force despite the DAR lifting it because Moldex misrepresented and concealed important facts when it applied for conversion of the disputed land. Under a DAR law, grave misrepresentation or concealment of material facts is a ground for cancellation or withdrawal of conversion approval.

"What is painful is that there are a lot of grassy and marginal lands in San Jose del Monte, yet they chose the prime irrigated land which we planned to become a food security zone," said Tadeo in Pilipino.

Taxpayers' money

Farmers also argued that the Department of Agriculture spent P2.5 million for the rehabilitation and installation of the irrigation system for Sapang Palay in 1997—a case of taxpayers' money put to waste as this government-assisted agricultural endeavor seems to have given way to subdivision development.

Sapang Palay has been classified an agricultural land, and is cultivated in by more than 100 farmers. In 1990, landowners protested the DAR's order of immediate implementation of the Operation of Land Transfer coverage of Hacienda Sapang Palay.

Before the Jan. 18 ground clearing of Sapang Palay, farmers said harvests were supposed to take place Jan. 31—the first of four planned harvests for the year. Sapang Palay supplies produce such as rice, soybeans, fruits and vegetables to markets in Metro Manila.

Cultivated land

The original size of the cultivated land, said Tadeo, was 3.5 million hectares in the '70s, and the country was even able to export rice. Due to rampant land conversions, however, the country is now short of 700,000 to 1.2 million metric tons a year. The Philippines now needs to import rice from Vietnam and Thailand. "The country is now intermittently importing rice between 200,000 and 500,000 metric tons yearly," said Tadeo.

Ka Ruben Cruz, another Samasa farmer spokesperson, said that while the Sapang Palay case was with the Office of the President, various developments, such as technical and financial assistance projects for the farmers, took place. An ongoing rice technology demonstration on some portion of the land was set to meet the government's food security thrust.

"This land had been reclassified on June 29, 1995, when it was decided upon by the Sangguniang Bayan. But it has since been reclassified from residential to agricultural land in another decision upheld by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan," said Ka Ruben.

GMA inspects mass housing projects in Cebu

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo visited Cebu yesterday to inspect several housing units of the National Housing Authority in a slum area of the city.

The President inspected NHA's slum upgrading project in Barangay Hippodromo, a project made possible through the efforts of former barangay chair Constantino Tajeno.

In preparation for the President's visit, Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena led an advance delegation that included Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Jualiano Soliman, Presidential Adviser Paul Dominguez, anti-poverty convenor Teresita Quintos-Deles, Press Undersecretary Cerge Remonde and government housing officials.

The presidential advance party met with local media and representatives of the newly formed political group, Barug Sugbo.

The President, upon arrival, received military honors at the Benito Ebuen at the Mactan Airbase, after which she motored directly to the Hippodromo Elementary School for the NHA briefing.

After the inspection of the slum upgrading project, the President joined the multisectoral assembly arranged by Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia, the Barug Sugbo and local urban poor organizations.

The President distributed certificates of title to the beneficiaries who have fully paid for their loans for the lots at Busay Sites and Services and the Hippodrome slum upgrading project.

Ms Macapagal also distributed certificates of awards for the Medalle Land in the San Miguel Housing Association Inc., a project under the community mortgage program originated by the Cebu City government.

The President was joined by Barug Sugbo convenor Ernesto Aboitiz and the presidents of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Cebu and Mandaue cities.

Housing innovations in Crown Asia project

CROWN ASIA, the country's leading middle-income property developer, pursues its thrust of using only the latest innovations in construction and fixtures for their houses in all prime subdivisions.

Marcelino C. Mendoza, Crown Asia chief executive officer said, "Our goal to ensure that we build only top quality houses for our residents leaves no stone unturned as we add these improvements.

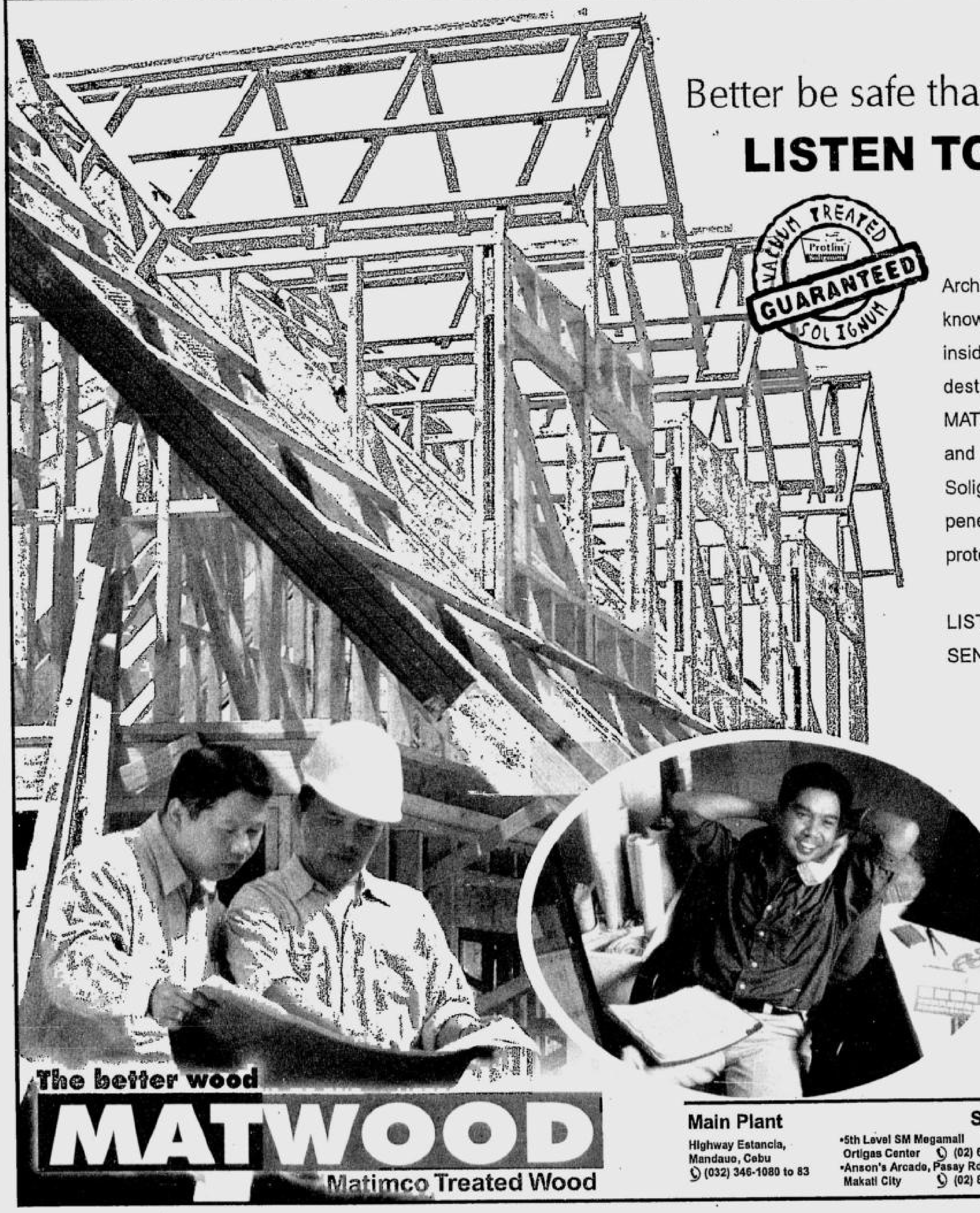
"Some of these additions may appear to be unimportant details to other companies, but we value their addition to our houses not only for their additional esthetic appeal, but also for its overall contribution to improving the quality of our work," Mendoza added.

Chief among these innovations is the use of the steel rafter system replacing the traditional wooden system as support beams for the roof.

"That steel rafter system contributed to an overall design improvement, not only because it is virtually termite-proof, but we could also use heavier gauge roofing materials because of the inherent strength of steel as opposed to wood," he said.

From a modern roof support system to a better window installation, Crown Asia uses enhanced steel casement windows, anodized aluminum windows and a light framing system. New housing technologies and improvements also included upgraded bathroom fixtures, prehang doors, baseboard and cornices. Water piping system has also been improved with the change to the Buteline brand of pipes.

Crown Asia pioneered the concept of "master-planned community"—an environment-friendly subdivision with beautifully designed homes with one basic theme.



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10 big fat-loss lies

Part I

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

I DON'T know Tom Venuto. What I know about him is that he is a fitness trainer and body builder somewhere in the United States. However, when I read over the Internet his list of what he believes are the 10 biggest fat-loss lies, I thought this is a man I would like to meet. He tells it like it is. He calls a spade a spade. What I diplomatically call "misconceptions," he aggressively calls "lies" because he is of the opinion that there are people who purposely lie about how to lose weight to make money from the desperate and the gullible. I think it is possible that some of these people are also deceived and actually believe in what they are doing. Then again, maybe they really know the truth and they are lying. Whatever the case may be, Venuto has very practical and sensible advice regarding weight loss that I want to share with you.

Fat-loss lie No. 1: You need supplements to lose fat. Venuto strongly believes that supplements are not necessary to lose fat. He says exercise and nutrition are the only things you need to lose fat permanently. He points out that supplements may help speed up the process a little but not as much as you have been led to believe. He stresses that 95-97 percent of your results will come from a good training and nutrition program. Therefore, he says, it is only logical to focus on the methods that will give you the most results rather than turning to supplements as "magic" bullets. And yet, this is precisely what many people do because they are looking for short cuts and want quick results without having to really work for it.

Venuto feels only advanced exercisers, competitive bodybuilders or athletes will benefit from supplements, if at all, because at that level of training, the extra 3-5 percent edge the supplements provide could be the difference between winning and losing.

In summary, his advice regarding fat loss and supplements: Focus on your diet and training program first to maximize the 95 percent. Once you reach that point, then you can take advantage of supplements to fulfill 100 percent of your potential as long as, and here is a big warning, it is legal, ethical and, if I may add, safe for your body.

He warns, "If anyone tries to convince you that you can't do it without supplements, beware. They are probably just trying to sell you something."

Fat-loss lie No. 2: The only way to get really lean is to "starve" yourself. Venuto is not the only one to claim that a very low-calorie diet will eventually make you fatter. Many other health and fitness professionals do so, too. It is a paradox but the less you eat, the less calories your body burns. On a very low calorie diet, a survival mechanism is set in motion, which slows your metabolism. Since no one can purposely starve for very long, Venuto notes a rebound effect is inevitable. Bingeing and an out-of-control appetite soon lead to weight gain.

Venuto says if you carefully scrutinize the calorie recommendations of most diet programs, you'll probably discover most of them require you to slash your calories to starvation levels and that's why they work temporarily.

His very sensible advice? To lose fat and keep it off permanently, reduce your calories slightly and increase your activity greatly. In other words, he says it is better to burn the fat than to starve the fat.

Fat-loss lie No. 3: You can believe everything you read in health and fitness magazines. Venuto exposes the seamy side of health and fitness magazines by revealing that some magazine publishers own supplement companies and use their

10 BIG/ p.C3

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

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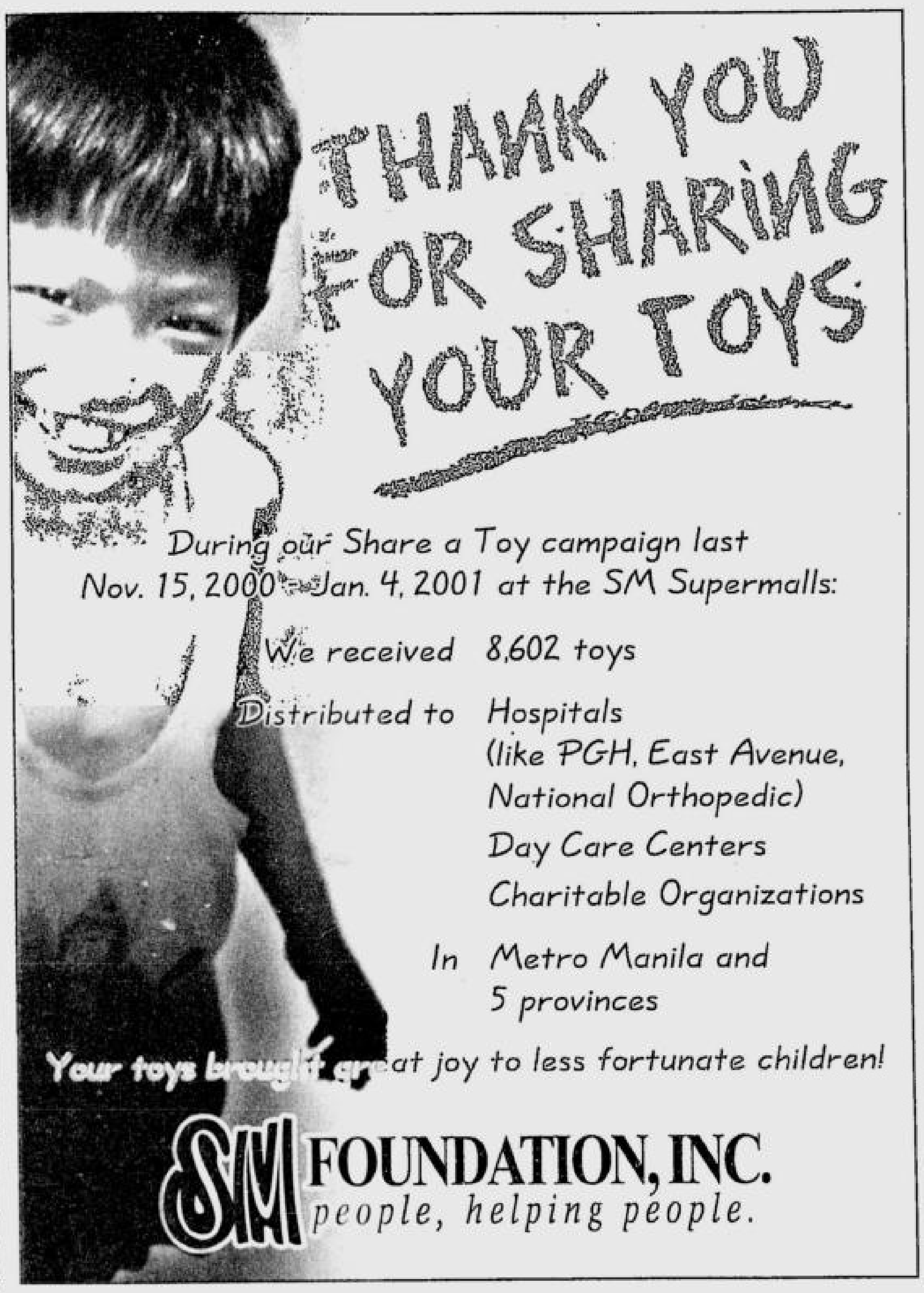

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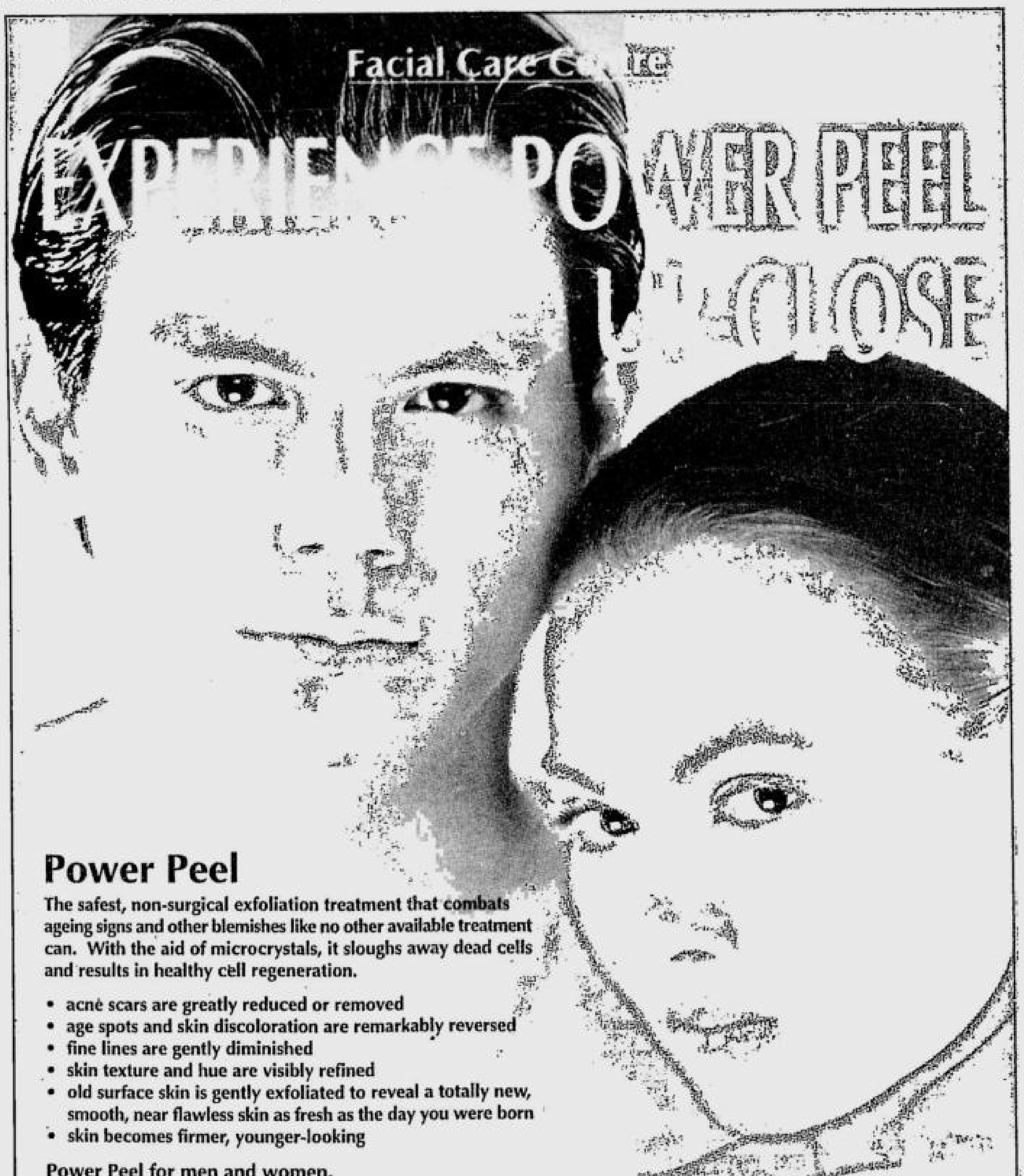

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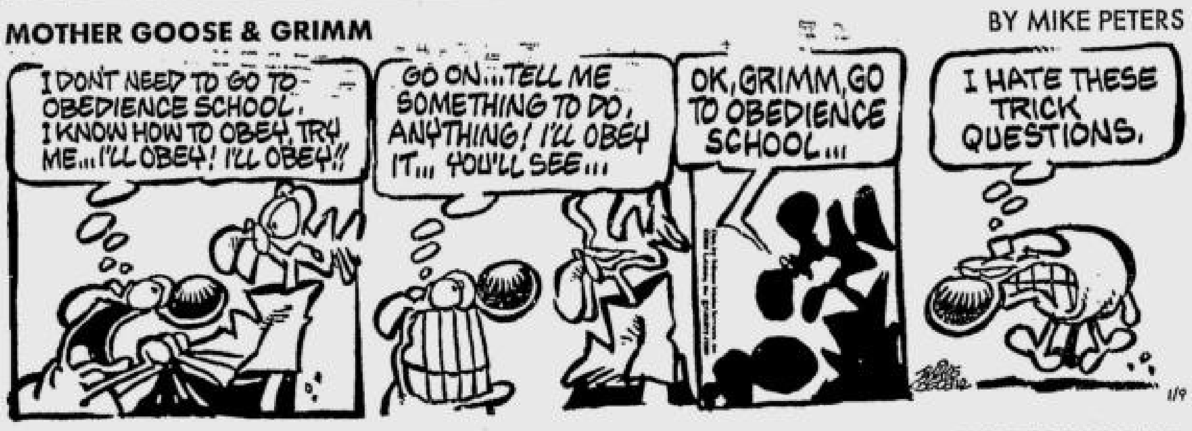
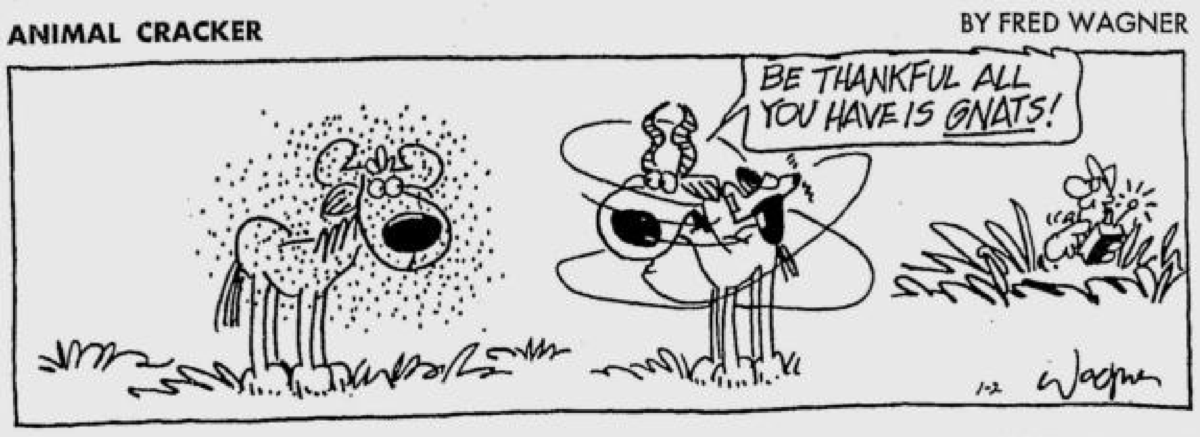

I DON'T NEED TO GO TO OBEDIENCE SCHOOL. I KNOW HOW TO OBEY. TRY ME...I'LL OBEY! I'LL OBEY!!
GO ON...TELL ME SOMETHING TO DO, ANYTHING! I'LL OBEY IT... YOU'LL SEE...
OK, GRIMM, GO TO OBEDIENCE SCHOOL...
I HATE THESE TRICK QUESTIONS.
1/9

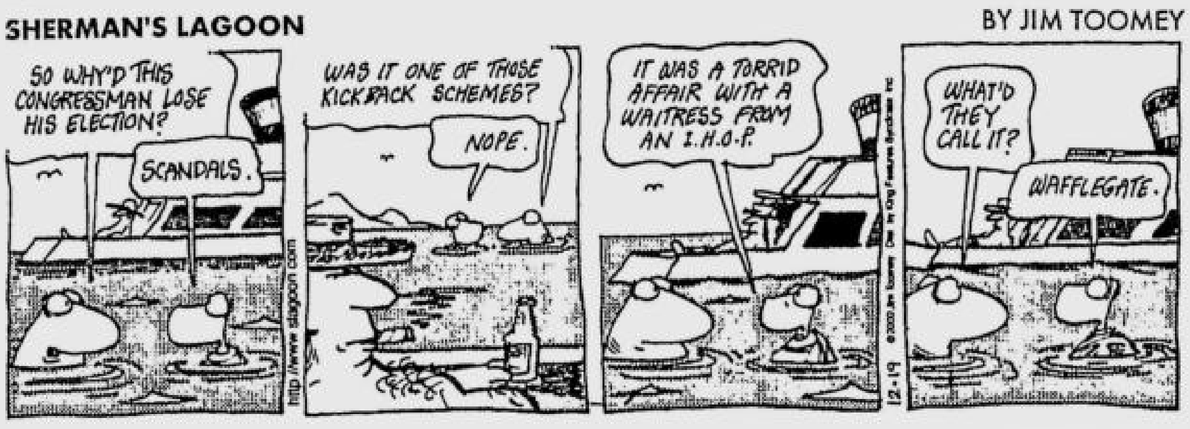
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


BE THANKFUL ALL YOU HAVE IS GNATS!
1-2 Wagner

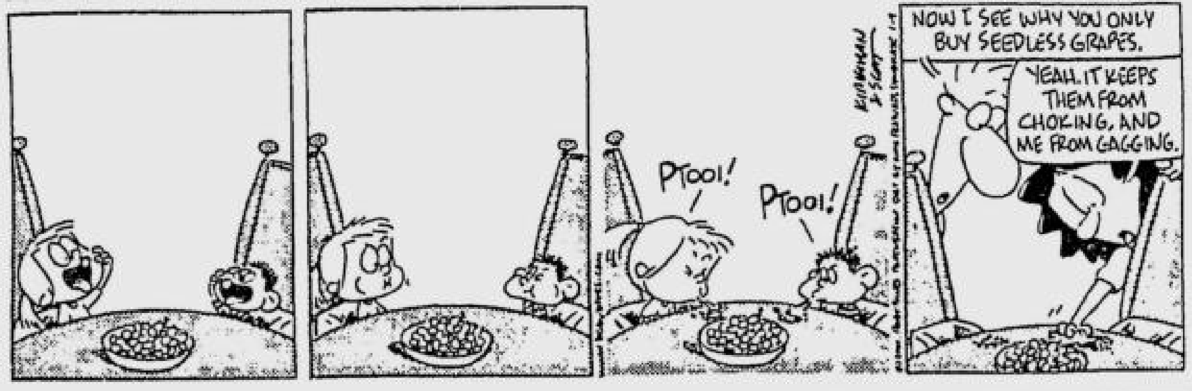
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO WHY'D THIS CONGRESSMAN LOSE HIS ELECTION?
SCANDALS.
WAS IT ONE OF THOSE KICKBACK SCHEMES?
NOPE.
IT WAS A TORRID AFFAIR WITH A WAITRESS FROM AN I.H.O.P.
WHAT'D THEY CALL IT?
WAFFLEGATE.
http://www.slagoon.com
12-19

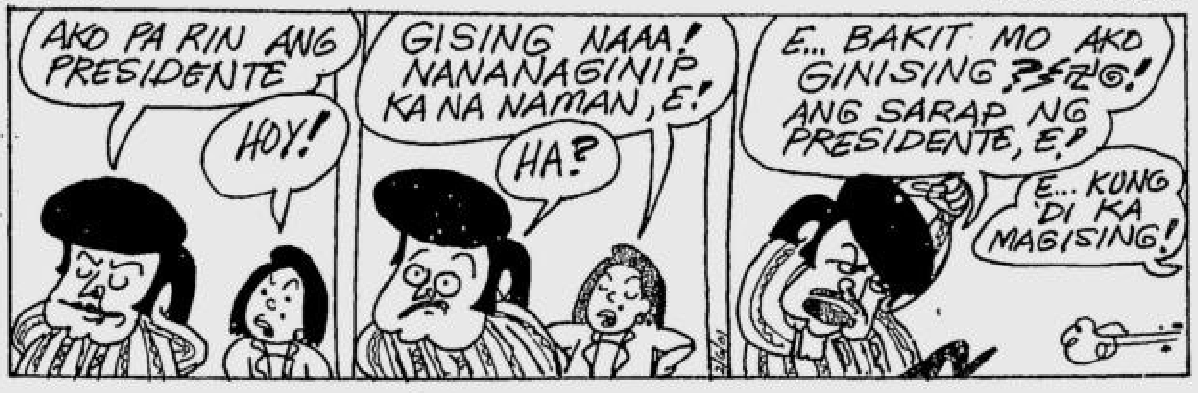
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


PTOOI!
PTOOI!
NOW I SEE WHY YOU ONLY BUY SEEDLESS GRAPES.
YEAH. IT KEEPS THEM FROM CHOKING, AND ME FROM GAGGING.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

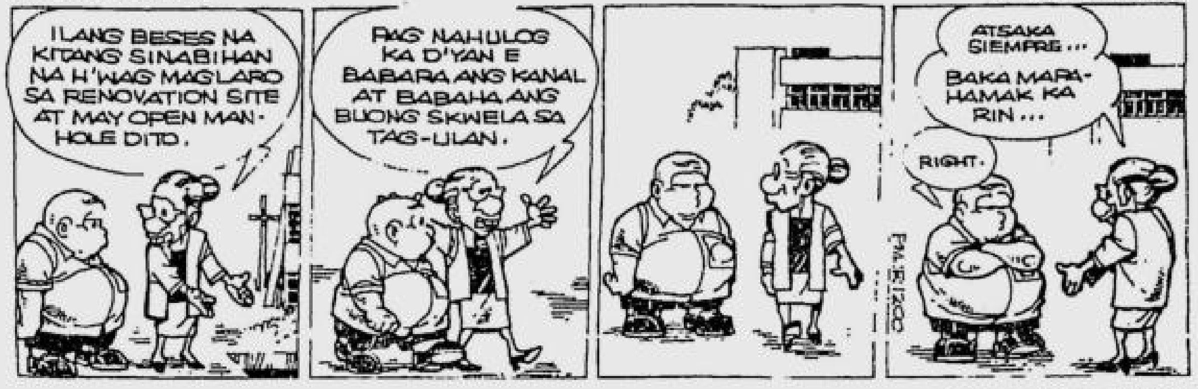
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AKO PA RIN ANG PRESIDENTE
HOY!
GISING NAAA! NANANAGINIP KA NA NAMAN, E!
HA?
E... BAKIT MO AKO GINISING ?$#@! ANG SARAP NG PRESIDENTE, E!
E... KUNG 'DI KA MAGISING!

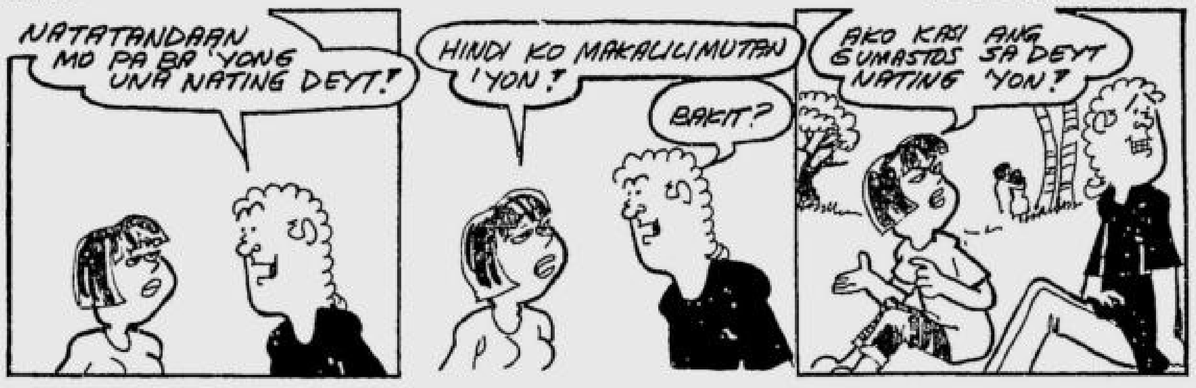
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ILANG BESES NA KITANG SINABIHAN NA H'WAG MAGLARO SA RENOVATION SITE AT MAY OPEN MAN-HOLE DITO.
PAG NAHULOG KA D'YAN E BABARA ANG KANAL AT BABAHA ANG BUONG SKWELA SA TAG-ULAN.
ATSAKA SIEMPRE...
BAKA MAPA-HAMAK KA RIN...
RIGHT.

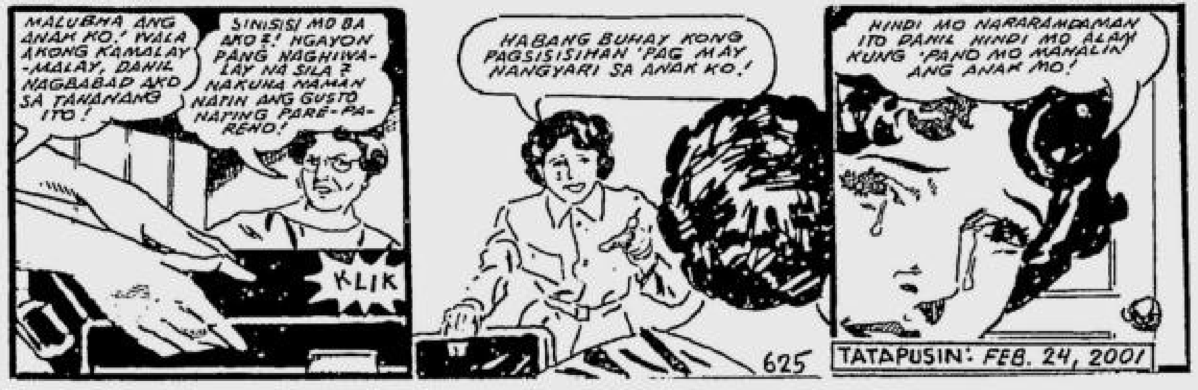
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NATATANDAAN MO PA BA 'YONG UNA NATING DEYT?
HINDI KO MAKALILIMUTAN 'YON?
BAKIT?
AKO KASI ANG GUMASTOS SA DEYT NATING 'YON?

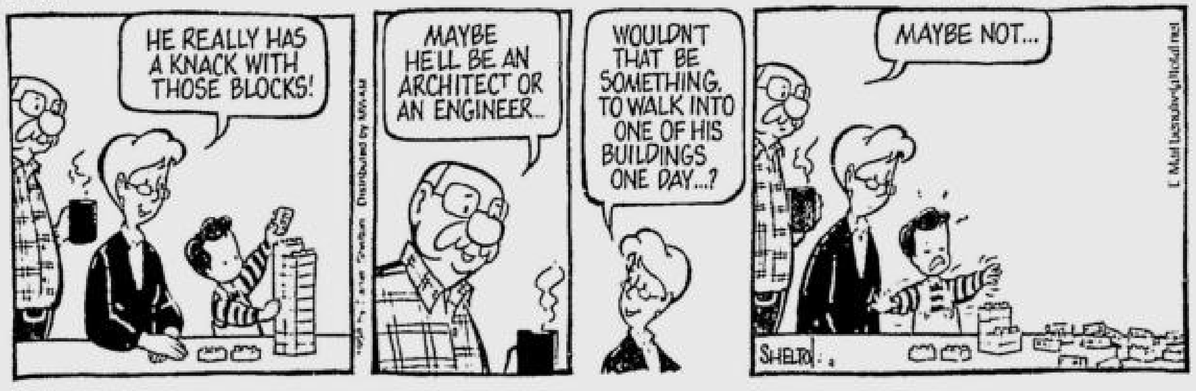
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


MALUBHA ANG ANAK KO.' WALA AKONG KAMALAY-MALAY, DAHIL NAGBABAD AKO SA TANAHANG ITO!
SINISISI MO BA AKO?! NGAYON PANG NAGHIWA-LAY NA SILA? NAKUHA NAMAN NATIN ANG GUSTO NATING PARE-PA-REHO!
KLIK
HABANG BUHAY KONG PAGSISISIHAN 'PAG MAY NANGYARI SA ANAK KO!
HINDI MO NARARAMDAMAN ITO DAHIL HINDI MO ALAM KUNG 'PANO MO MAHALIN ANG ANAK MO!
625
TATAPUSIN: FEB. 24, 2001

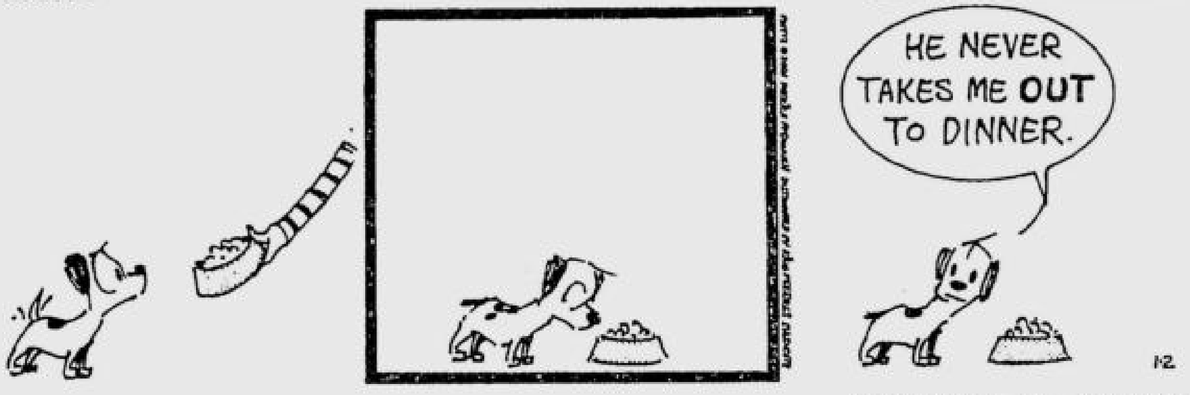
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HE REALLY HAS A KNACK WITH THOSE BLOCKS!
MAYBE HE'LL BE AN ARCHITECT OR AN ENGINEER...
WOULDN'T THAT BE SOMETHING, TO WALK INTO ONE OF HIS BUILDINGS ONE DAY...?
MAYBE NOT...
SHELTON

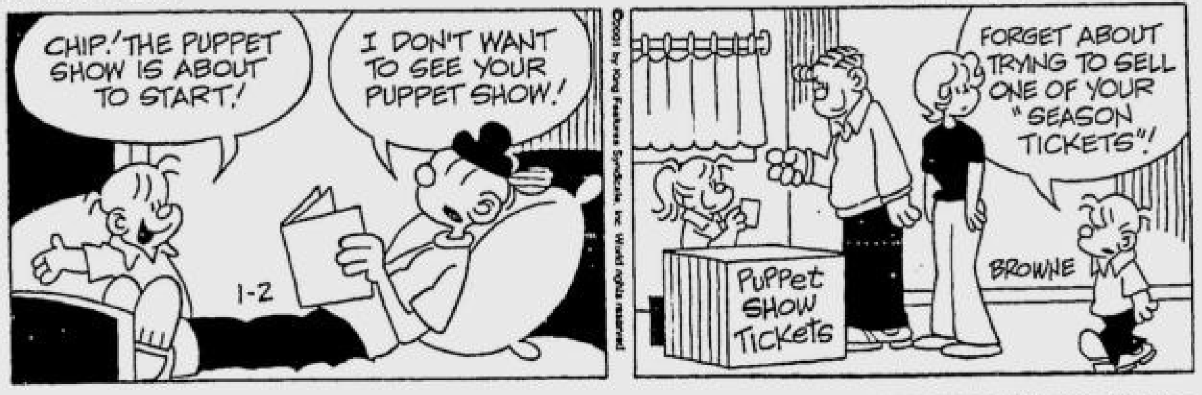
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HE NEVER TAKES ME OUT TO DINNER.
1-2

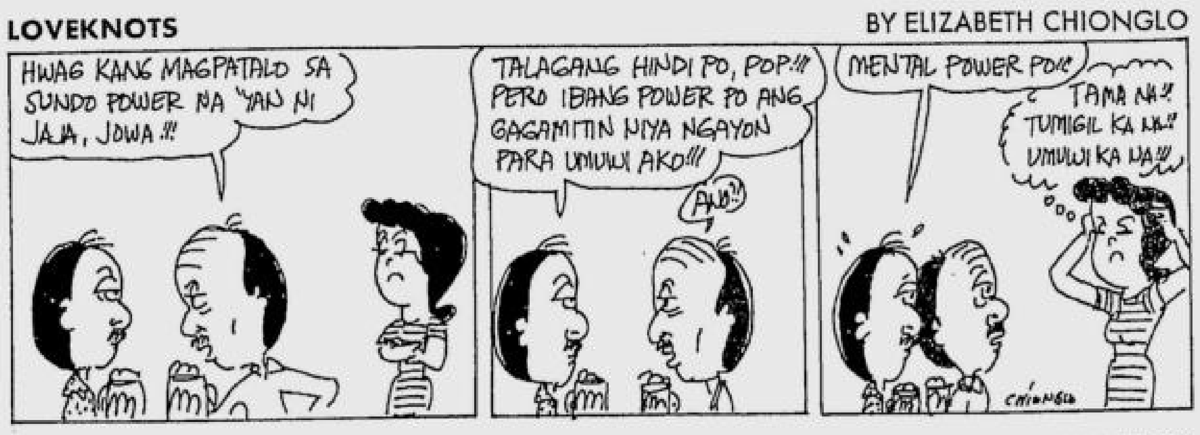
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CHIP! THE PUPPET SHOW IS ABOUT TO START!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR PUPPET SHOW!
1-2
FORGET ABOUT TRYING TO SELL ONE OF YOUR "SEASON TICKETS"!
PUPPET SHOW TICKETS
BROWNE

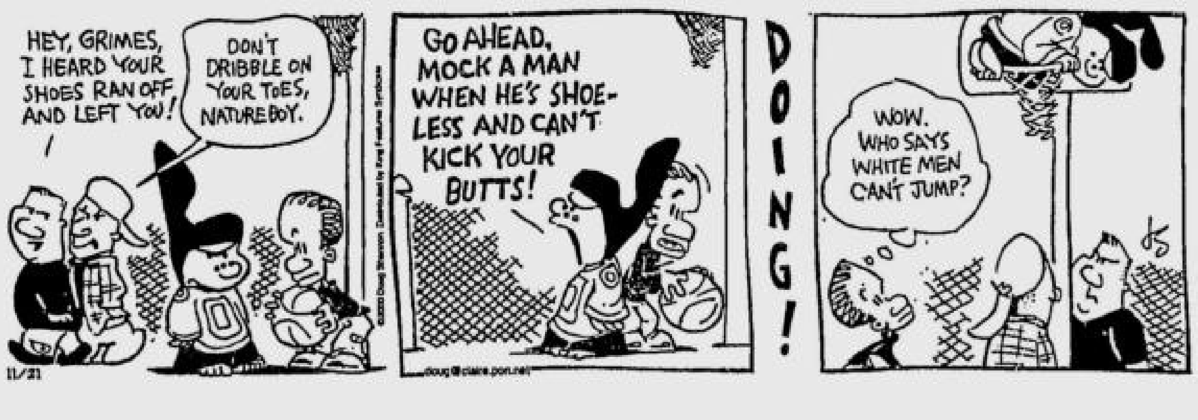
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HWAG KANG MAGPATALO SA SUNDO POWER NA 'YAN NI JAJA, JOWA!!!
TALAGANG HINDI PO, POP!!! PERO IBANG POWER PO ANG GAGAMITIN NIYA NGAYON PARA UMUWI AKO!!!
AW!
MENTAL POWER PO!
TAMA NA!! TUMIGIL KA NA!! UMUWI KA NA!!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


HEY, GRIMES, I HEARD YOUR SHOES RAN OFF AND LEFT YOU!
DON'T DRIBBLE ON YOUR TOES, NATURE BOY.
GO AHEAD, MOCK A MAN WHEN HE'S SHOE-LESS AND CAN'T KICK YOUR BUTTS!
DOING!
WOW. WHO SAYS WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP?
11/21
doug@claire.pon.net

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Babe Ruth, Ronald Reagan, Michael Tucker, Tom Brokaw, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Axl Rose, Francois Truffaut, Natalie Cole, Bob Marley, Robert Townsend

Happy Birthday: You have a strong sense of what you want to accomplish this year. Your goals are high, but organization and diplomacy will be a must if you want to fulfill your dreams and hopes. Don't be afraid to ask for help, and you will be surprised how much easier your life will be. This is a year to work in unison with others, not to go it alone. Your numbers: 9, 14, 27, 35, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your friends or relatives will be able to give you some good advice if you confide in them. You need to get out and enjoy yourself more often. Look for inexpensive but entertaining activities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your life will stabilize if you restrict yourself to a tight budget. Take care not to be talked into donating to organizations that you believe in but really can't afford to help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have to put your energy to good use with competitive sports events, socializing with friends, or spending time with the one you love. Your passion will be hard to contain.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can learn if you listen to others. You need to stand back and decide if you are really going in a direction that will satisfy your needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take time to do things for yourself. You've been so busy caring for everyone else that you've forgotten what it's like to be pampered.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Arguments will lead to anxiety and frustration, not to mention loneliness and hurt. Don't overreact to your partner's lack of time or attention. Keep busy. Get involved in your own interests, and you won't be by yourself for long.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your quick wit will win you points. Voice your opinion, but don't be too pushy or opposition will arise. Physical activity will be rewarding. You will have the energy to get things finished.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Channel your efforts into fixing up your home, not arguing with those you live with. Don't let your stubborn nature lead to irreconcilable differences.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your emotional partner will be upset if you have been neglecting your duties. Someone you have become friends with has greater interest in you than you realize. Tread carefully.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let yourself be dragged into a love triangle. Be sure that the person you date is free and clear of past involvements. Children will play an important role today.

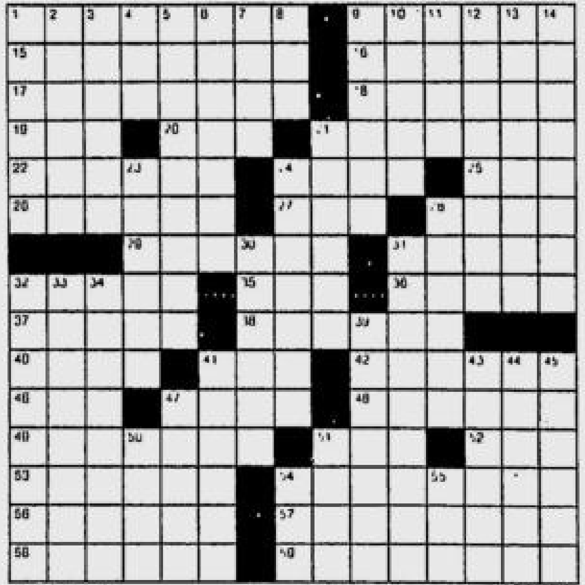
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Try to include your family in any social events that arise. You need to create a closer bond with those you love. Your entertaining nature will win favors from those you deal with at work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotionally, things won't run too smoothly today. Try not to let your mate corner you. This is not the time to be faced with a situation that could result in isolation. Busy yourself with activities that will enhance your looks.

Birthday Baby: You can fool even those who think that they know you well. You have the ability to keep your thoughts to yourself and to divert attention elsewhere if you want to be less conspicuous.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY

12/23/00

ACROSS
1 Tracy/Hepburn comedy
9 Gives rise to
15 Isolation
16 Arise
17 Appropriate
18 Forward
19 Diminish
20 Potash
21 Bitter regret
22 Cut into thin pieces
24 Bastes and hems
25 Charleson or Carmichael
26 Opening word?
27 News chiefs, for short
28 Repair
29 Roman salad?
31 Dance music
32 "I Can't Make You Love Me" singer Bonnie
35 Function
36 Input, as data
37 Follow logically
38 I couldn't care less!
40 Self-images
41 Pale
42 Port on the Black Sea
46 Do-over tennis service
47 Grammatical witticisms
48 Crushable hats
49 Runaway brides
51 Bon Jovi or Lovitz
52 Gym padding
53 Restaurant patrons
54 Worm oneself into favor
56 Frosted to the max
57 Supervisor
58 Parts of mollusk shells
59 Types of roofs

DOWN
1 Impose a fine
2 Increase 100%
3 Excuses
4 Sch. near Harvard
5 Inconclusive conclusion
6 Wife of Ossie Davis
7 Unemployed
8 Quilters' gathering
9 Threaded fasteners
10 Keats or Yeats offerings
11 Rounds or clips
12 Superlatively fatigued
13 Annoyance
14 Grandeur
21 Made a second sketch
23 Desert succulent
24 Annual periods
28 Moneymaker?
30 Dey and Sontag
31 Sound suppressers
32 Landed, in a way
33 Sweet green liqueur
34 Of equal tension
39 Birthplace of Frank Sinatra
41 German sausages
43 ___ fidelis
44 Uttered
45 John Jacob and Mary
47 As such
50 "___ Gynt"
51 Programming language
54 Dad's partner
55 "Born in the ___"

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

N	A	B	S	■	T	E	M	P	O	■	S	O	D	S
E	L	I	A	■	R	E	O	I	L	■	T	O	U	T
W	E	L	L	T	U	R	N	E	D	■	R	H	E	A
T	E	E	■	A	S	I	A	■	M	E	A	S	L	Y
■	■	■	S	I	T	E	■	B	A	L	I	■	■	■
P	A	R	T	L	Y	■	S	W	I	F	T	E	S	T
A	V	E	R	S	■	S	H	A	D	■	L	I	C	E
P	A	N	E	■	C	H	I	N	S	■	A	G	E	S
A	S	E	A	■	H	O	R	A	■	S	C	E	N	T
S	T	E	M	W	A	R	E	■	T	H	E	R	E	S
■	■	■	L	O	R	E	■	R	E	A	D	■	■	■
M	A	R	I	N	A	■	B	O	A	R	■	S	H	E
E	L	A	N	■	D	E	E	P	S	E	A	T	E	D
L	O	V	E	■	E	S	T	E	E	■	G	O	R	E
D	E	E	D	■	S	E	A	R	S	■	O	P	E	N

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12/23/00

Exercises to break down fat cells that cause cellulite

To feel lighter, get the blood circulation going; to reduce the appearance of sponginess, activate the natural elimination process

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos By Mike Alquinto

MAYBE you're not overweight, but you feel puffy or, in Tagalog, *manas*. Or you may be slim but you're bothered by the sponginess in your thighs and buttocks. Cellulite and body bloat have been the dilemma of normal people who are obsessed with thinness. Experts say these unflattering conditions are caused by poor circulation and build up of toxins.

Raquel Royo, Clarins international training manager, says the first step is to understand how to reduce the body's excess lipids which are organic compounds that contain fats, proteins and carbohydrates.

Cellulite is commonly described as the amassing of fatty tissue under the skin in specific areas. These adipose deposits create pockets found between the connective tissue groups interwoven with their own micro-circulation system.

The fatty or adipose tissue is a vital energy store for the body that is useful to someone who has a normal body mass. It controls the metabolism of sugars, cholesterol and lipids that we need for energy. Depending on one's metabolism, adipose tissue either piles up or releases the body fat. It is composed of billions of cells called adipocytes that are in charge of maintaining the body's energy balance.

The adipocyte cell has two tasks. The first is lipogenesis or the production of triglyceride, an important energy source creating much of the fat stored by the body. The other job is lipolysis, the chemical breakdown of fats into fatty acids and a liquid called glycerol. This step is speeded up by enzymes that are controlled by stress hormones that are under the membrane receptors of the fatty cells.

Scientists have maintained that stimulating these receptors will activate enzymes that break down stored triglycerides, energy sources forming our fat. The adipose cells release fatty acids and glycerol that are used by the muscles and liver in some physiological conditions such as exercise and lesser food intake.

In the past few years, most researches have concentrated on how these hormones break down the fat.

Better circulation

Royo presented a study conducted by French scientist Max Lanfontan. Experts have discovered a compound called atrial natriuertic peptide (ANP) that is released during exercise or physical activity that activates the breakdown of the fat cells, especially in the cellulite, which is surface skin adipose tissue.

ANP, composed of amino acids, is produced in the heart, kidney and brain. It controls the blood pressure in the arteries and body's water and sodium balance. This compound discharges toxins, such as urine and sodium, and causes the expansion of the blood vessels for better circulation.

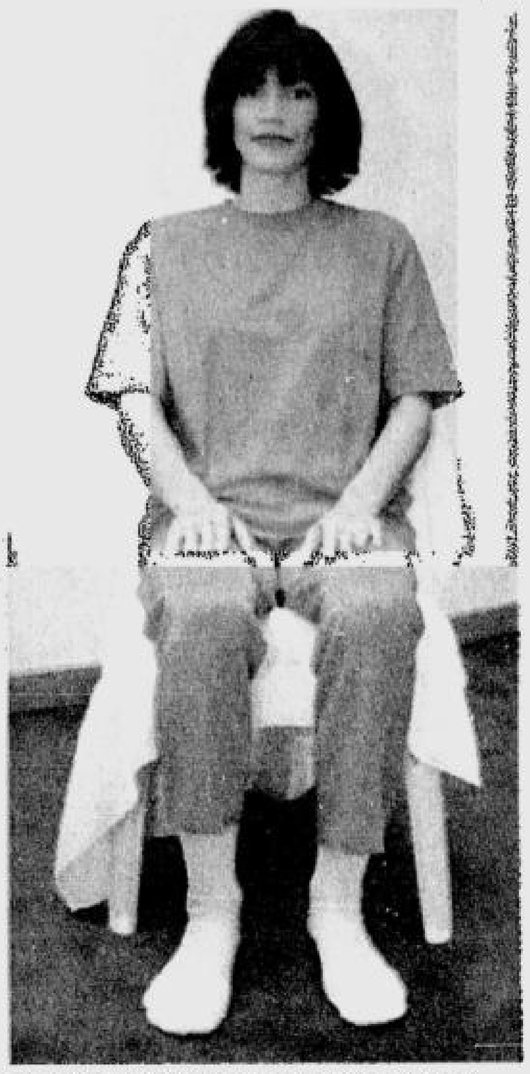
Lanfontan says there are plant peptides that do the same job as the ANP. They help open the pores in stems and leaves and regulate the flow of air and water in plants. This has led cosmetic companies such as Clarins to produce products from plant enzymes that help get rid of toxins for a more toned complexion.

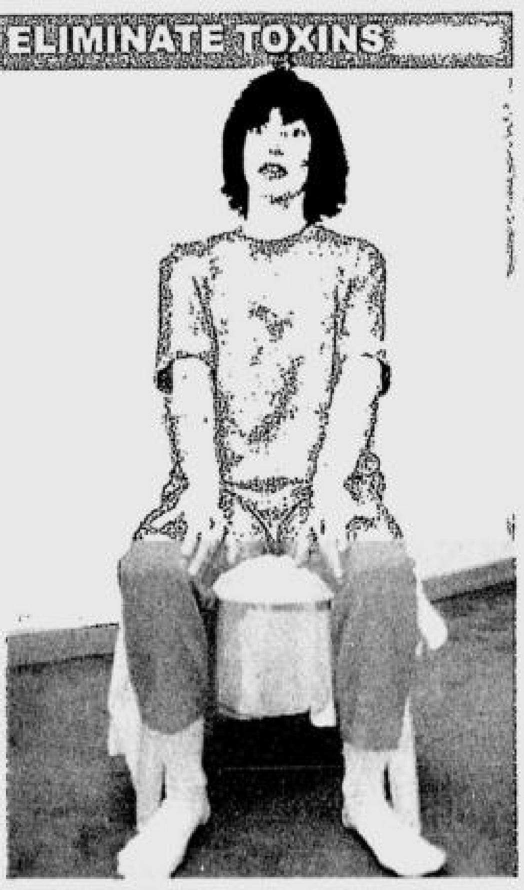
Royo says to feel lighter, get the blood circulation going. To reduce the appearance of sponginess or cellulite, activate the natural elimination process and drain the toxins with self-massage.

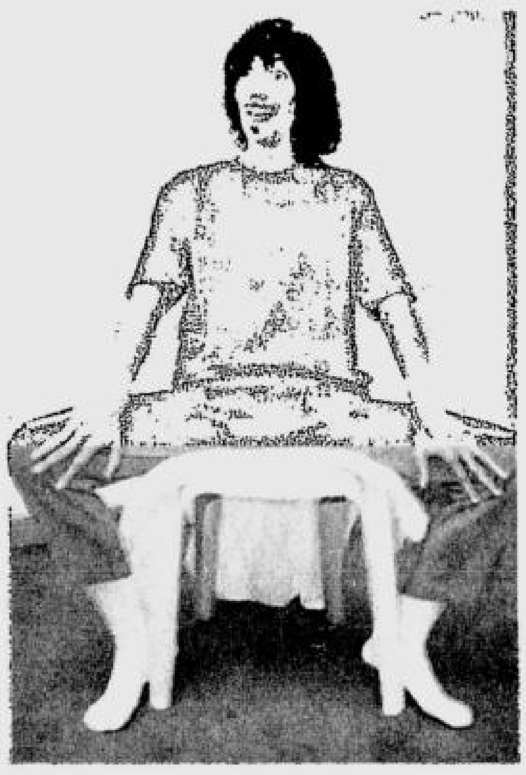
Royo demonstrates these exercises which you can do while watching television.

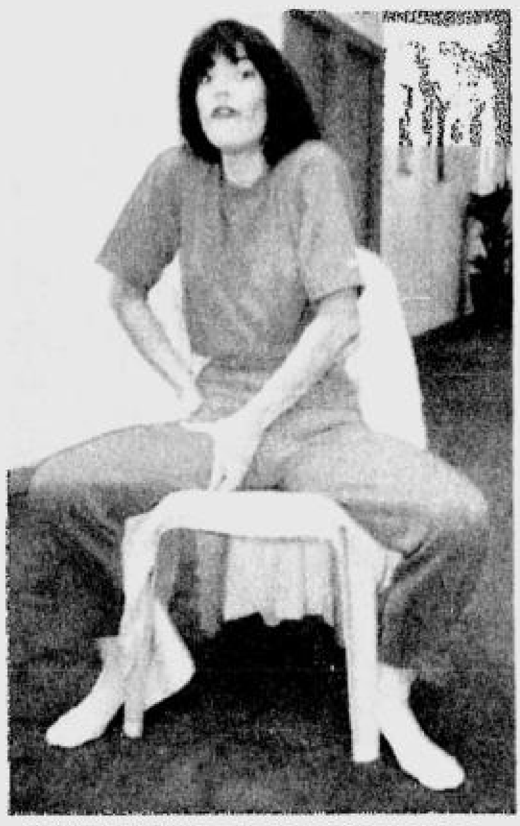
E-mail the author at menriquez@inquirer.com.ph

EXERCISES TO HELP ELIMINATE TOXINS

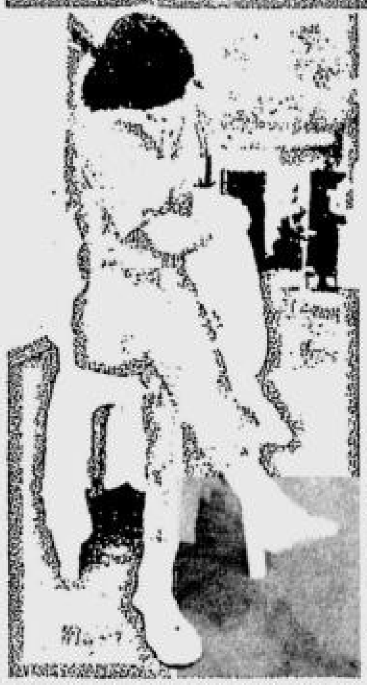

1 SIT comfortably with your spine straight and the shoulders relaxed. Rest your hands on your lap and keep your feet flat on the floor.


2 TO EXERCISE the inner thighs, place your feet against the legs of the chair. Push inward as hard as you can. Feel your inner thighs contracting. Hold for 60 seconds. Repeat thrice. Tip: With your hands flat against your leg, gently massage the muscles you contracted on the inner thigh. Begin at the upper thigh and move them down to your ankle. Repeat thrice on each leg.


3 FOR THE OUTER THIGHS. Place your feet on the outer part of the chair's legs. Try to push them outward. Feel the tightening in the outer thighs.

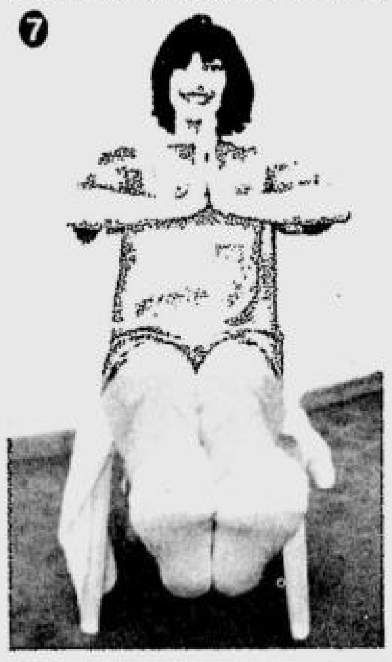

4 WITH BOTH hands flat against your leg, gently press the areas where you felt the muscles contract. Repeat thrice on each leg. In these exercises, the fatty tissue is "trapped" between your contracted muscles and hands. This enhances the natural elimination process.

EXERCISES TO REMOVE LOVE HANDLES


5 SIT with your leg crossed to the right, but don't overcross so you block circulation. Twist to the right. Feel the contraction in the sides of your body and hold for 60 seconds.

6 REPEAT on the other side.

EXERCISES TO FIRM THE CHEST, UPPER BODY AND TRICEPS AND IMPROVE LEG CIRCULATION

❼


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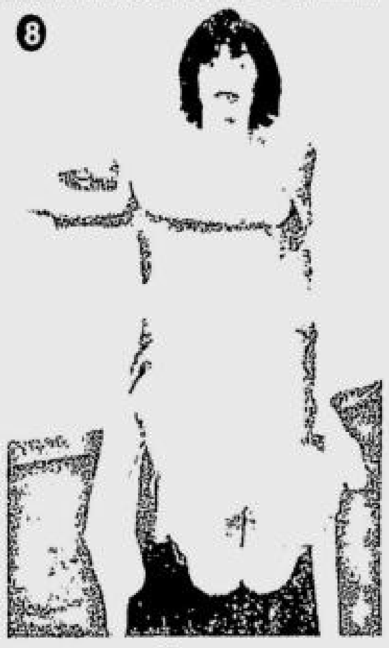


❾

7 SIT erect with your spine against the chair. Extend the legs forward. Keep your knees straight but don't hyperextend them. Press your palms against each other. Feel the contraction in the chest and upper arms. Hold for 60 seconds.

8 MOVE your hands toward the right side. Feel the contraction for 60 seconds.

9 REPEAT on the left. When the exercise becomes too easy, increase the repetitions or squeeze with a rubber ball.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Hammer curls

This variation of the basic biceps curl works the muscles in the front of the upper arm.

Equipment:
Dumbbells

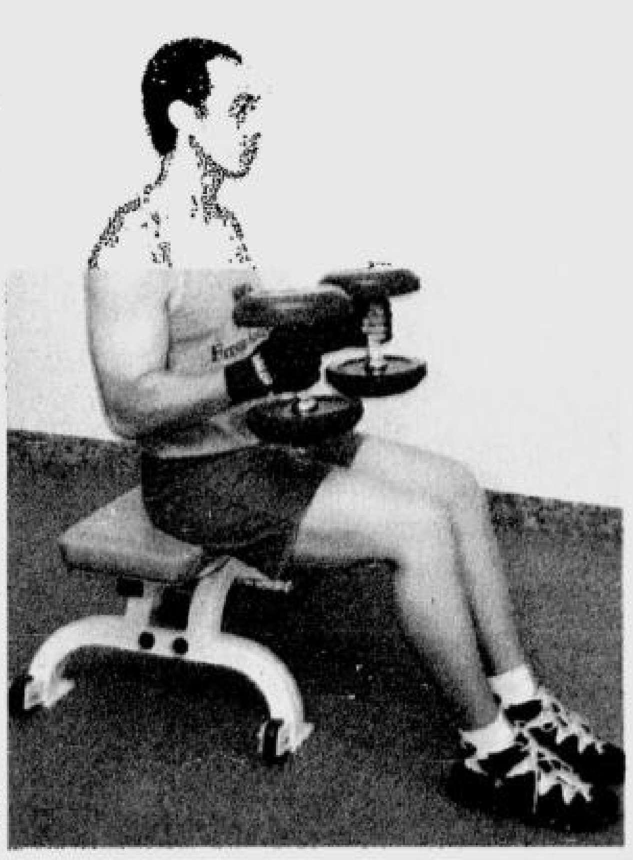
Exercise technique:

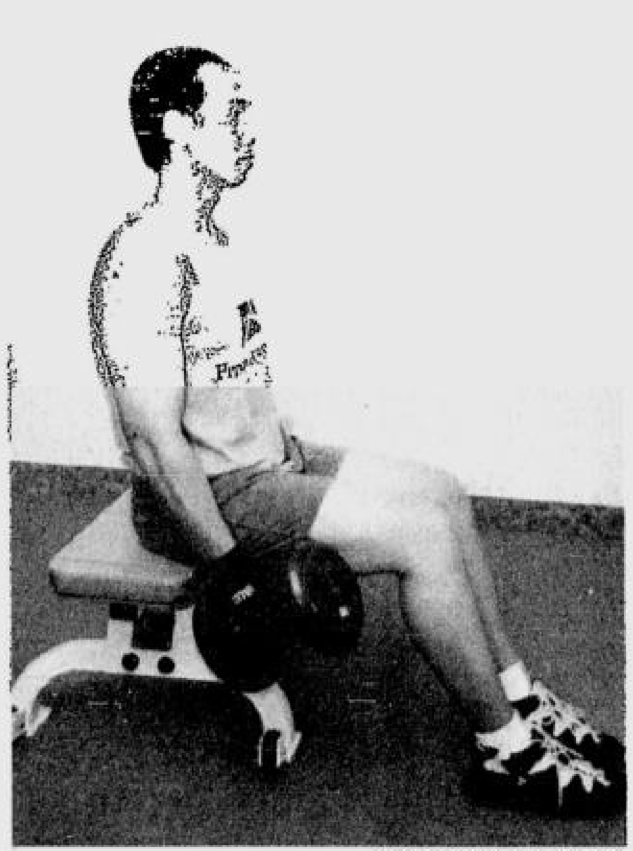
1. Stand with feet roughly shoulder width apart, arms at your side with your palms facing each other.
2. Curl the dumbbells toward your shoulders while keeping your torso still.
3. Lower the dumbbells slowly.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your palms facing each other.
2. Keep your abdominal muscles tight as you lift and lower the dumbbells.
3. Don't allow your torso to lean forward or backward during the exercise.

Repetitions:
Do eight to 12 repetitions. One to three sets.





PHOTOS BY ROGER MARGALLO

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10 big fat-loss lies

(From page C1)

magazines as a means for promoting their products. This is a well-known fact in the fitness industry. This is why, as Venuto points out, these types of magazines carry articles, which are more correctly called "advertorials," about the latest breakthrough in supplements. Venuto also argues that "even if the magazines don't have a vested interest in a particular line of supplements, you still can't count on them to tell the whole truth because they don't want to offend the deep-pocketed companies that are spending big money to advertise."

The bottom line according to Venuto: "Don't believe everything you read. Question everything. Use your head. Use common sense and your own good judgement. Beware of hidden motives. Just because it's right there in black and white doesn't mean it's true."

Fat-loss lie No. 4: Meal replacement products and diet shakes help you "burn" fat. It can be very tempting to think all you need to solve your weight loss problems is to drink a diet shake or some other Meal Replacement Product (MRP). Venuto says supplement companies would like you to believe that MRPs have some sort of "magical fat reducing property." However, he says the truth is MRPs are nothing more than "powdered" food whose primary benefit is convenience when you don't have time to eat whole foods. He emphatically states they are not better than food no matter what the supplement gurus say.

He quotes John Parillo, a nutritionist and author of several bodybuilding books (ironically, he also sells his own line of supplements), who wrote: "No supplement can ever provide you with all the benefits that food supplies. We were built to process foods, not powdered or liquid supplements alone. If you want to make the best possible progress with your physique, I suggest you forget the hype surrounding all supplement diets or meal replacement programs and get back to basics. And that means food."

Fat-loss lie No. 5: Thermogenic "fat burners" that contain ephedrine and caffeine are the "end all and be all" of weight-loss products. Venuto calls fat-burning pills the hottest weight-loss craze in the history of the industry. He writes, "Open any bodybuilding or fitness magazine these days and you'll see multipage advertisements boasting of amazing results with dramatic photos of physiques allegedly transformed by using these products. One headline says, 'Proven to increase fat loss 1,700 percent.' Another says, 'Burn up to 613 percent more fat.' Still another says, '34 times more fat lost than control group.' "

Venuto warns everyone not to believe the hype. He says thermogenic fat burners help you perhaps 5 percent at best. He argues if these supplements really did burn as much fat as they say they do, there wouldn't be any fat people left. But in the United States alone, there are more overweight people than ever before. In fact, obesity levels are rising all over the world.

Venuto says over and over again "there are no magic bullets." He laments people just don't seem to get it because they want instant gratification and are "easily swayed by the glossy four-page magazine spreads with those mind-blowing (doctored?) before-and-after photos." He believes that "supplement companies are very shrewd marketers" who use "testimonials, endorsements, scientific studies and before-and-after photos that are incredibly persuasive."

His advice is to always remember the "secret" to permanently losing body fat is not supplements or drugs, it is the combination of good nutrition and a solid training program."

* * *

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. (AFPP) will hold four fitness seminars on Feb. 24 at Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman, QC. Gym instructor seminar: "Speed and Agility Drills," "Overtraining," "Principles of Endurance Training" and "Understanding the Aging Process." Aerobic instructor seminar: "Kickboxing," "Pilates," "Latin" and "Funk Workouts." Gym management seminar: "Increasing Your Club's Leads," "Business 101," "Preparing for a Change" and "Hiring Evaluation Systems." Seminar for the general public: "How to Create Your Own Dance Aerobic Workout," "Shape Up with Rubber Bands" and "Stretch Your Body Workout." Call Lorna at 842-0567.

E-mail the author at fitness.advantage@attglobal.net.

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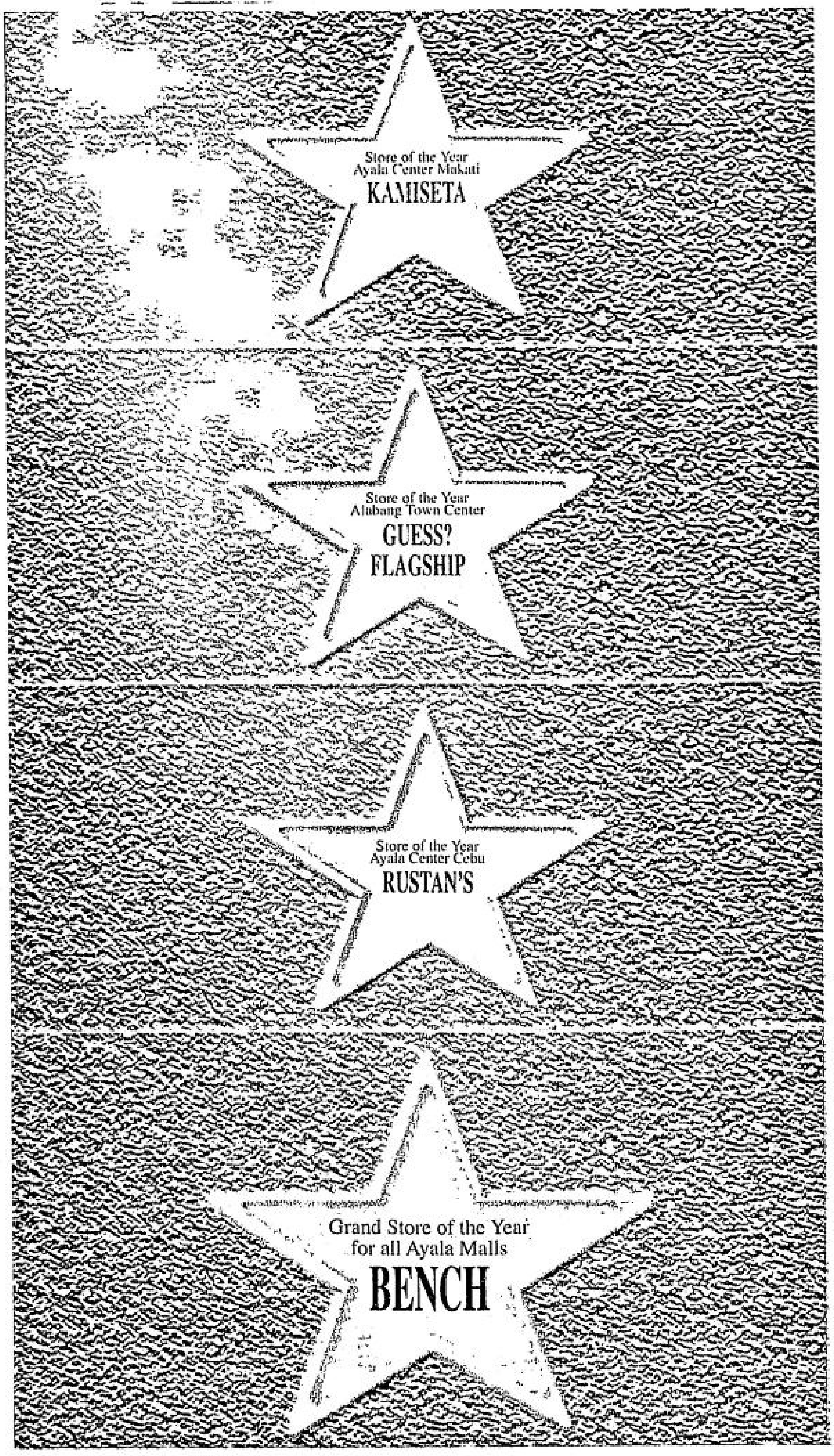
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